

EMILY SWALLOW: THE ARMORER INTERVIEWED!

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE | ISSUE 209

STAR WARS

INSIDER

**Exclusive
Star Wars
Fiction!**

An all-new
story inside!

**The Making
of Maul**

From Sith Lord
to Crime Lord

**Spice:
Just Say No!**

The story of the
nefarious commodity
that conquered a galaxy!

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Investigating the lawbreakers and
lawmakers of the *Star Wars* galaxy!

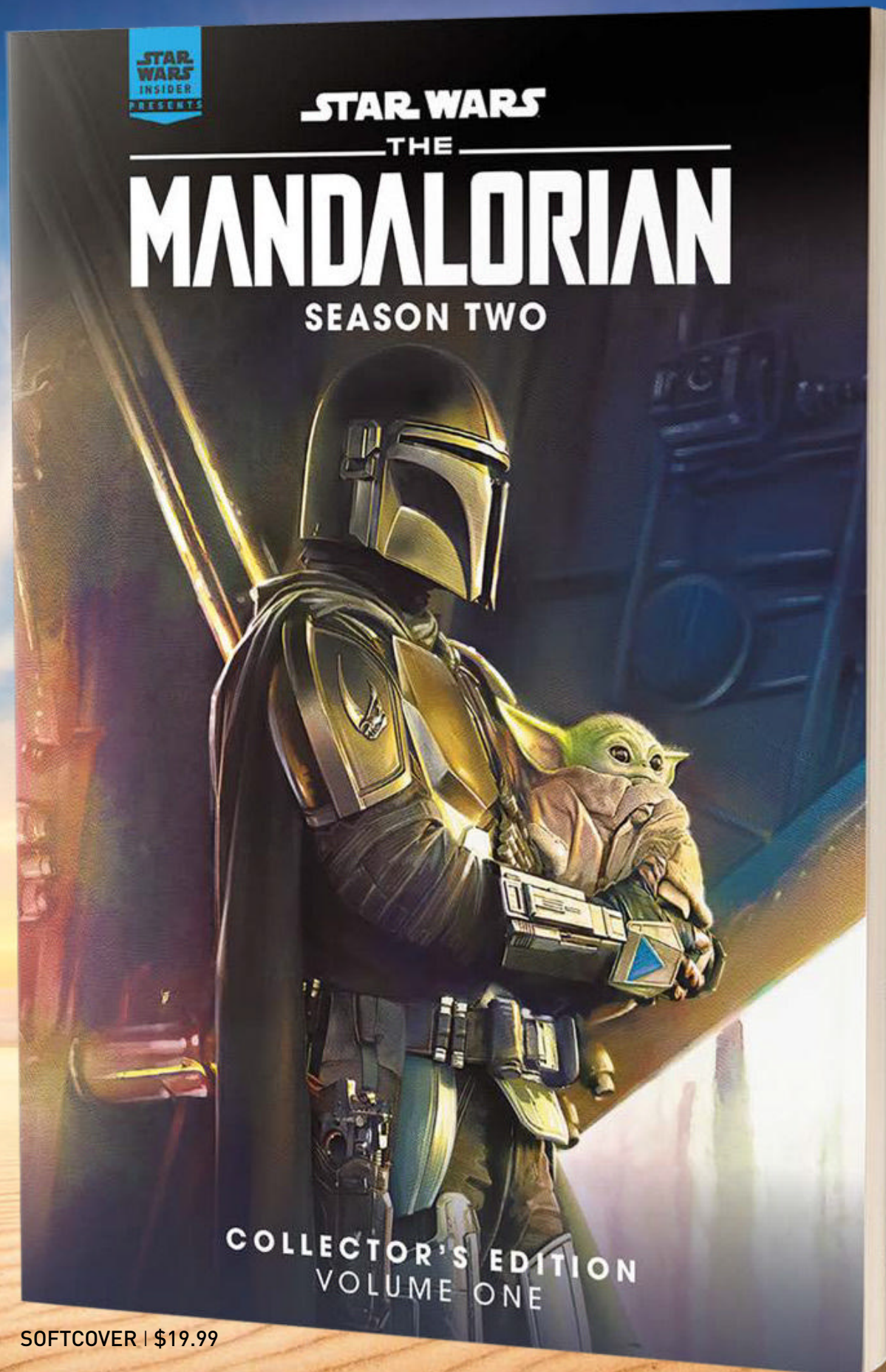


INSIDE JABBA THE HUTT!

HOW THE GANGSTER SLUG WAS BROUGHT TO LIFE

**STAR
WARS**
INSIDER
PRESENTS

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- San Francisco Book Review

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WELCOME...



Sometimes I find myself having *Star Wars* revelations. I'm sure you've had similar experiences, when you've been thinking about *Star Wars* (possibly too much...) and a thought suddenly pops into your head that seems so obvious you can't imagine why it never occurred to you before. In this instance I'd been researching images for this very issue when I came across a photo of a Gamorrean Guard, sometimes referred to as a "Pig Guard" in reference to the species' porcine snouts. This was around lunchtime, and a ham sandwich was also on my mind. That's when the revelation hit: Gammon is a cut of meat from a pig! Could that be where their name came from?! (I never suggested my revelations were particularly insightful, did I?)

So, why was I overthinking things concerning those green-skinned grunts that menaced visitors to Jabba the Hutt's palace? Because this issue of *Star Wars Insider* is all about the criminal underworld of the galaxy far, far, away, from the lawmakers and lawbreakers of the saga to the insidious evil of Kessel spice.

Jabba himself weighs large in these pages (and that's not a slight on his size—there'll be no body-shaming here, even of ultraviolent Hutt gangsters!), and we were lucky to speak to the trio of puppeteers who brought the sinister slug to life in *Return of the Jedi*. We also chat with Emily Swallow, *The Mandalorian's* Armorer, and debut brand new *Star Wars* short fiction starring bounty hunters Zam Wesell and Jango Fett. In fact, it would be a crime not to start reading right away!

May the Force be with you!

Christopher Cooper
 Editor

MEET THE CONTRIBUTORS...



Jay Stobie
[@StobiesGalaxy](#)
 Starship fanatic and blogger Jay writes articles for *Star Wars*.com and is searching for a way to reside full time in the *Star Wars* galaxy.



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[@melissatruth](#)
 Scientist and science writer Melissa visits Comic-Con every year to purchase new *Star Wars* paraphernalia for her pet dog.



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 James is a writer for *Star Wars*.com and assorted online geek sites, and enjoys trips around the world to visit *Star Wars* filming spots.



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 Novelist S.T. Bende has contributed to several *Star Wars* books including *The Tiny Book of Jedi* and *Star Wars Galactic Adventures*.



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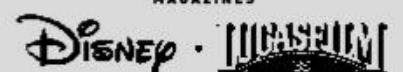
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STAR WARS[®] INSIDER

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With *The Book of Boba Fett* adding more layers to the lore of the galaxy's criminal underworld, *Star Wars Insider* explores the seedier side of the saga, in this special crime-infested issue.

Subscribe to *Star Wars Insider* Page 46

NEWSSTAND EDITION

COMIC STORE EXCLUSIVE

SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE

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Worldwide

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How much do you know about the suave space pirate Hondo Ohnaka?

STAR WARS
INSIDER

LAUNCHPAD

NEWS / BOOKS / COMICS / TOYS / GAMES / FASHION

Registry of the Jedi

Star Wars Sequel Inducted into Historic Movie Archive



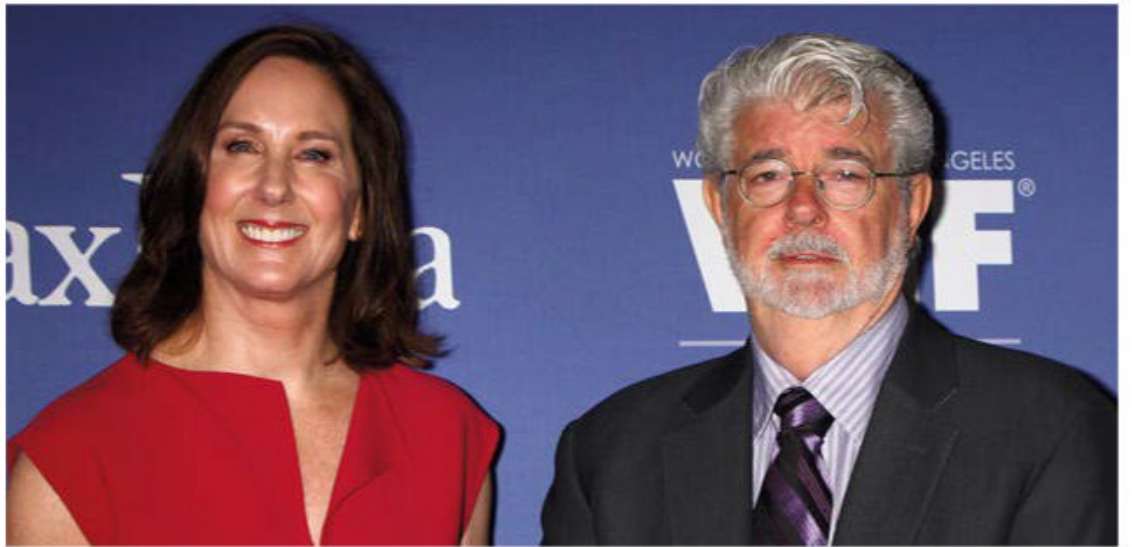
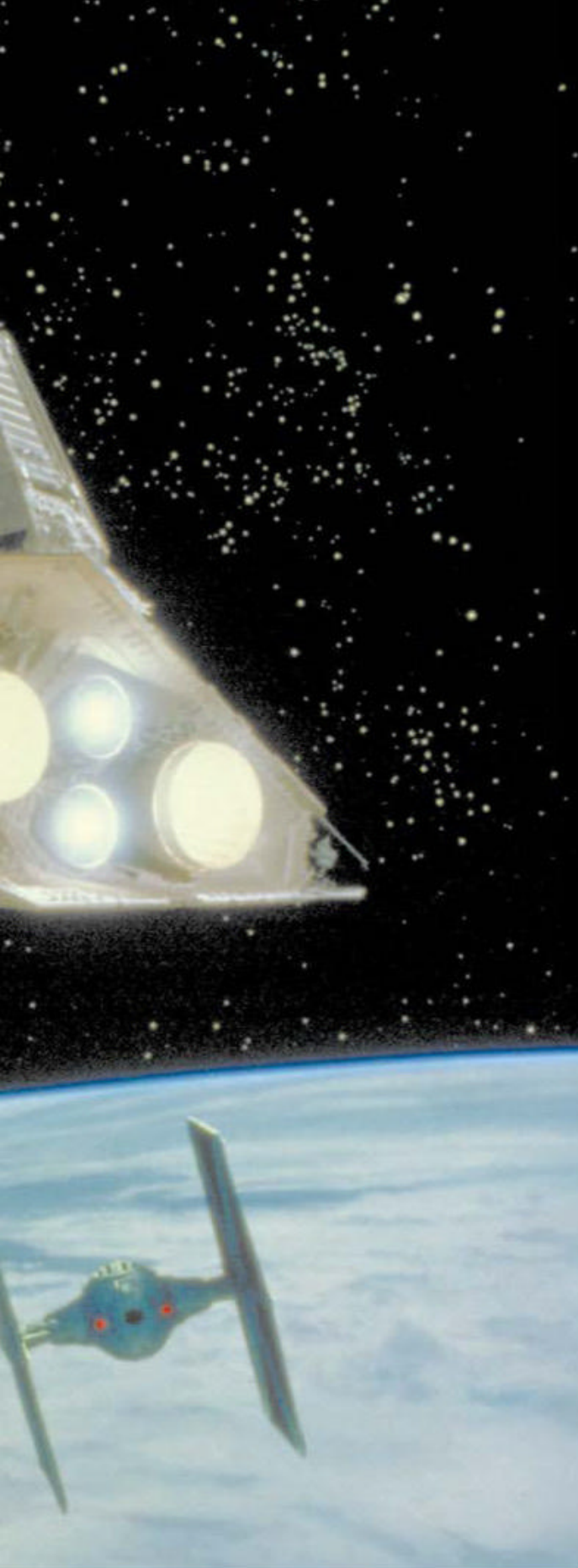
Founded in 1988, the National Film Preservation Board of the U.S. Library of Congress has committed itself to ensuring the preservation of America's rich film heritage, selecting 25 films each year to be inducted into the National Film Registry. Late in 2021, the third movie in the *Star Wars* saga, *Return of the Jedi* (1983), joined its predecessors on the coveted list of 825 films.

Following a rigorous nomination process, movies are chosen to become part of the archive based on their "cultural, historic, or aesthetic importance," with the latest additions

including an eclectic selection ranging from music documentaries to comedies and animated features, stretching back to the dawn of cinema with the 1902 short film *Ringling Brothers Parade Film* documenting a Circus parade.

Other memorable science fiction and fantasy films that made the 2021 list include Disney Pixar's *WALL-E* (2008), director Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001), and Wes Craven's horror masterpiece *A Nightmare on Elm Street* (1984).

Announcing the list on December 14, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said, "Films help reflect our cultural history



Movie Milestones

George Lucas and Kathleen Kennedy Honored

Star Wars creator George Lucas and Lucasfilm Ltd. president Kathleen Kennedy are to be honored with the 2022 Milestone Award at the 33rd annual Producers Guild of America Awards on March 19.

Recognizing their work at the film company, founded by Lucas in 1971 with Kennedy at the helm since 2012, PGA presidents Gail Berman and Lucy Fisher told the press, “Together, George and Kathleen have carved out a fantastic empire of entertainment that inspires and entertains billions, all with the highest levels of both creative and technical achievement. We’re very proud to honor George and Kathleen

as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of Lucasfilm.”

“Receiving the Milestone Award from the PGA is a celebration of all that goes into bringing stories to life across a lifetime,” said George Lucas about the honor. “Being recognized alongside my longtime friend and fellow producer Kathleen Kennedy makes this honoring of our shared and individual works even more meaningful.”

“I am very honored to share this award with George Lucas who has inspired a generation of filmmakers who were coming of age, not only through his storytelling but through technological innovation that unlocked our imagination,” said Kennedy.



and creativity—and show us new ways of looking at ourselves—though movies haven’t always been deemed worthy of preservation. The National Film Registry will preserve our cinematic heritage, and we are proud to add 25 more films this year,” adding, “The Library of Congress will work with our partners in the film community to ensure these films are preserved for generations to come.”

Star Wars: A New Hope (1977) was among the first batch of classic movies to be inducted in 1989, followed in 2010 by *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980).

You can learn more about the National Film Registry and its work at www.loc.gov.

Bargain Bonanza

Rare Toys Amaze at Auction

A hoard of Kenner *Star Wars* action figures bought from a supermarket bargain bin in the 1980s has earned a British collector an astonishing pension boost this January, when they were sold at auction for \$68,000!

Interest in *Star Wars* toys had been on the wane in the years following the release of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* (1983), with action figures that are now much sought after by modern-day collectors languishing on store shelves. One wily Brit spotted an opportunity when he noticed the stock of his local supermarket was on sale at reduced prices and, having purchased as many as he could afford (93 figures in total—including an ultra-rare Yak Face), he stored them carefully away in their pristine original packaging for almost 40 years. His investment paid off, with figures such as Princess Leia, bought for 49p (approximately 67 cents) selling for £1,750 (\$2,389)!



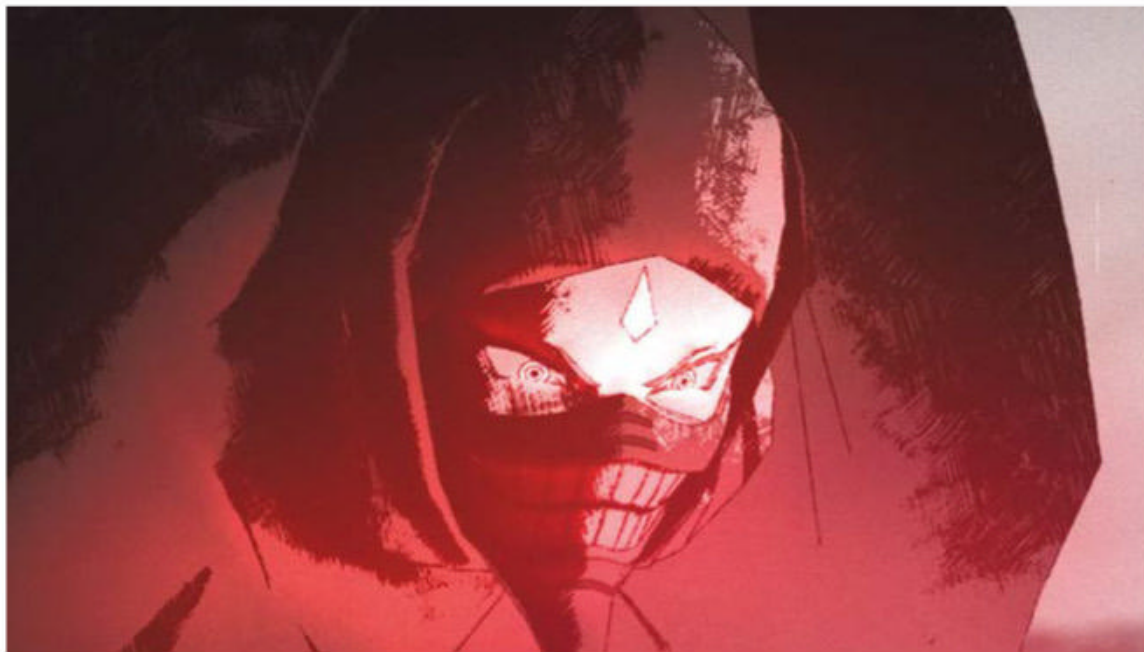
No Disintegrations

Take Aim with NERF's Boba Fett EE-3 Blaster

W hether you're looking to take on every gangster in the galaxy or just bag a few bounties, Boba Fett's EE-3 Blaster from NERF should be your weapon of choice.

Based on Fett's firearm as seen in the Disney+ series *The Book of Boba Fett* (2021-present), the fully loaded toy recreation can fire up to 12 NERF Elite darts, and includes an illuminated sight and series-accurate sound effects. Available for pre-order from Hasbro Pulse until March 31, 2022, the blaster retails for \$109.99, and goes on general sale in Spring 2023.





An Annie For Anime?

Star Wars: Visions Nominated for Top Animation Award

The anime Disney+ series *Star Wars: Visions* gave fans a host of new interpretations of the *Star Wars* galaxy, and one of its nine stunning episodes—"The Duel"—was among the nominees in this year's prestigious Annie Awards.

The International Animated Film Society, ASIFA-Hollywood, has hosted an annual awards ceremony since 1972, recognizing the best animated productions and individual achievements in the field of animation each year. Both *The Clone Wars* (2008-2014, 2020) and *The Mandalorian*

(2019-present) have been previous Annie Award recipients.

The 2021 awards includes the *Visions* episode "The Duel" among its nominees in the Best TV/Media, General Audience category, with the 49th ceremony streaming live online March 12, 2022. The episode, directed by Takanobu Mizuno for Lucasfilm and the Kamikaze Douga animation studio, centered around a bandit attack on an embattled village that was interrupted by an enigmatic wanderer wielding a lightsaber. The *Star Wars* novel *Ronin* by Emma Mieko expanded on the events of the anime short.



PRODUCTION DIARY

Our regular summary of *Star Wars* movies and television series currently filming:

IN PRODUCTION

STAR WARS
ANDOR

Starring Diego Luna
as Cassian Andor
Disney+

Series Creator: Tony Gilroy
Cast Includes: Genevieve O'Reilly, Stellan Skarsgård, Denise Gough, and Kyle Soller.

STAR WARS
OBI-WAN KENOBI

Starring Ewan McGregor
as Obi-Wan Kenobi
Disney+

Director: Deborah Chow
Cast Includes: Hayden Christensen, Moses Ingram, Joel Edgerton, Bonnie Piesse, Kumail Nanjiani, Indira Varma, Rupert Friend, O'Shea Jackson Jr., Sung Kang, Simone Kessell and Benny Safdie.

COMING SOON

STAR WARS
THE BAD BATCH

Season Two
Starring Dee Bradley Baker
and Michelle Ang
Disney+



Diplomacy, Geonosis Style

You won't need "aggressive negotiations" to secure this statuesque senator

W

ith the 20th anniversary of *Star Wars: The Attack of the Clones* (2002) upon us, Gentle Giant Ltd. is commemorating Senator Padmé Amidala's

bravery at the Battle of Geonosis with its Padmé Amidala Premier Collection 1:7 Scale Statue. Standing at 9-inches tall, the statue features the Senator from Naboo in an iconic pose with a blaster at the ready, risking her life to fend off the battle droids surrounding her position. Priced at \$179.99 and scheduled to ship in April 2022, you can order yours at **GentleGiantLtd.com**.



THE LIGHT SIDE

By Jamie Cosley



Fascinating features and articles from the digital vaults of [StarWars.com](https://www.starwars.com)

Add [StarWars.com/Insider](https://www.starwars.com/insider) to your browser bookmarks to enjoy *Insider's* pick of the best of the official *Star Wars* website.

Rogue One Reflections
StarWars.com celebrates the fifth anniversary of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016) with recollections from director Gareth Edwards and actor Felicity Jones (Jyn Erso).



The Toys That Made Brian Volk-Weiss
The filmmaker talks to StarWars.com about his passion for making *Star Wars* documentaries, from the story of Kenner to *Behind the Attraction* for Disney+.



Calling All Jedi
Crafter Kelly Knox explains how to transform a turntable spice rack into the seeing stone of Tython, as seen in *The Mandalorian* (2019-present).



A Rey of Hope

Awaken the Force within you with cosplay garb fit for a Jakku scavenger

When we first met Rey in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015), she survived rough conditions by salvaging what she could on her homeworld of

Jakku. From her rustic desert garb to the salvaged rebel helmet she wore at home in the wreckage of an AT-AT, Rey's outfit has become synonymous with her character's thrilling journey.

Denuo Novo has masterfully crafted a comfortable recreation of Rey's ensemble that's perfect for cosplayers, with her signature wrap-around outfit and the ready-to-wear Rey Salvaged X-wing Helmet Accessory which features the same attention to detail. To learn more about both items and place your order, visit DenuoNovo.com.



A Regal Rancor

Take the throne that's geared up with gargoyles



Jabba the Hutt's pet may have been killed by Luke Skywalker,

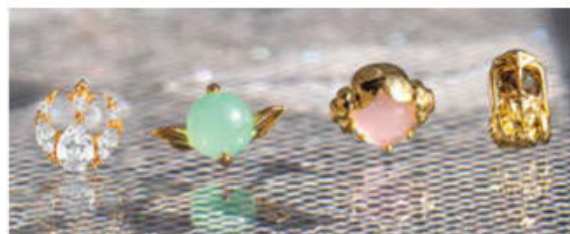
but the throne that now acts as Boba Fett's seat of power in *The Book of Boba Fett* (2021) still bears gargoyles styled after the carnivorous creature.

Regal Robot's Rancor Throne Gargoyle Magnet beautifully recreates the devilish decor, cast in solid resin with a hand-painted faux bronze finish. Each magnetic mini-sculpture arrives ready for display, retailing for \$29.99, and is available to buy now at RegalRobot.com.

Endearing Earrings

Adorn your ears with classic characters from a galaxy far, far away...

Girls Crew has released an astounding, seven-piece collection of earring sets that feature memorable figures ranging from Yoda, Princess Leia Organa, Chewbacca and various droids, to the Mandalorian, Grogu, a Star Destroyer, and more. Each set is available in either 18k Gold Plated, 18k Rose Gold Plated, or Rhodium Plated designs. Place your order at **ShopGirlsCrew.com**.



The Cargo Holdall

Pack up your baggage in your own Fett sling bag

Bounty hunting often requires a great deal of equipment, so where better to store your gadgets as you roam the sands of Tatooine than in *The Book of Boba Fett* Crossbody Sling Bag? Featuring more pockets than a bantha's saddle, and with a padded shoulder strap, this crime lord-worthy backpack is priced \$49.99 from **shopdisney.com**.



Track Down a Bounty

Allow your outwear to reflect your love of Boba Fett

Boba Fett's cool armor has attracted fans for decades, and the release of *The Book of Boba Fett* (2021) has only increased the attire's allure. To celebrate the *Star Wars* Disney+ series, Adidas has adapted the stylings of Fett's armor and applied it to their high-quality 3-Stripes jackets and trainers. You may not be able to run Jabba's empire, but at least you can go for a run in galactic style. Check out the entire collection exclusively at **Adidas.com**.



MANDO MERCH



The latest bounty on which to blow your beskar

Spud Buds

“Wherever I go, the potato goes!”

Once they were united as a clan of two, Din Djarin and Grogu proved to be practically inseparable, at least until Moff Gideon’s dark troopers intervened. Nevertheless, the bond between the Mandalorian and the Force-sensitive child has been brought to life as part of Hasbro’s celebrated Potato Head series. The Yamdadorian and the Tot A stand as fun and festive interpretations of Mando and his ward, and the potato pair come armed with a variety of accessories, including a helmet, armor, and cape, compatible with all Potato Head toys. Available now, priced \$15.99



A Bobbling Blurr

Rush into battle on these collectible creatures

First introduced to the Mandalorian on Arvala-7, the blurrgs were highly valued by Kuiil, who insisted on bringing them along to free Grogu from the Client on Nevarro. Part of Funko’s legendary line, The Mandalorian on Blurr Deluxe Pop! Vinyl Figure B features Din Djarin saddled atop the blurr, ready to face the challenges ahead. Priced for \$24.99, visit **Funko.com** to place your order.

Mando Goes Micro

Rebuild the Mandalorian’s resilient ride for yourself

As Din Djarin’s signature starship, the *Razor Crest* proved to be incredibly reliable, despite attracting all sorts of battle damage before being blasted to pieces by Moff Gideon. The *Razor Crest* Microfighter C from LEGO® allows fans to rebuild and recreate the gunship’s epic escapades and comes fully equipped with stud shooters and a Mandalorian minifigure outfitted with a buildable jetpack and blaster pistol. Priced at \$9.99.



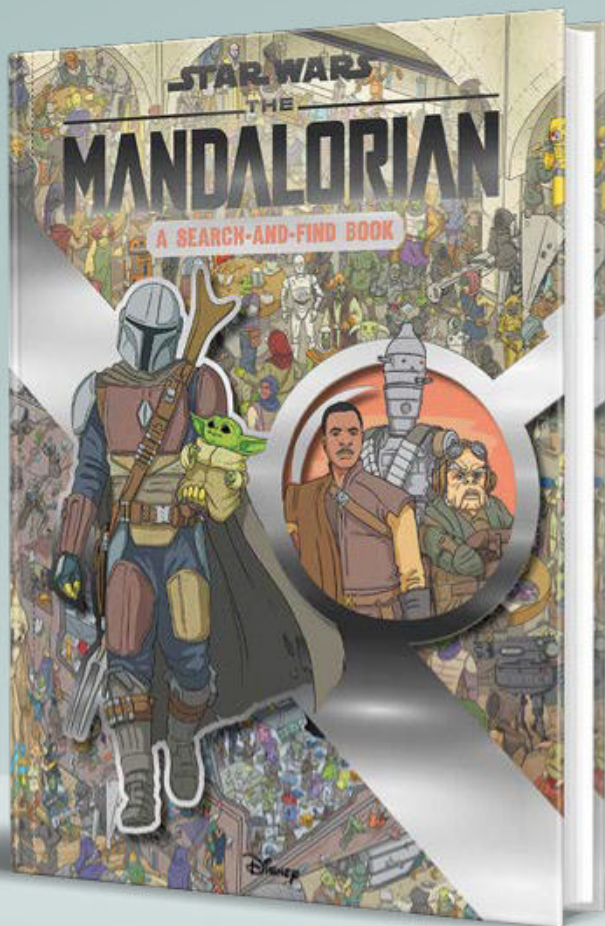
The Force of Popcorn

This is the way to make a galactic Grogu snack

Uncanny Brands know how to make a real-life task into a fun *The Mandalorian*-themed event, and that includes making popcorn! Using the hot-air popping method, The Child Popcorn Maker D, priced \$59.99, not only makes a tasty fresh snack in seconds, its lid is a Grogu serving bowl!

Book Club

Gear Up with the Mandalorian in the latest *Star Wars* book releases.



Is This The Way?

Track down Din Djarin and his allies in *Star Wars: The Mandalorian Search and Find*

You might be as cunning as the best bounty hunters in the business, but do you have the skills to locate the the *best* of the best—Din Djarin, better known as the Mandalorian—along with his allies and acquaintances hiding across the galaxy far, far away?

With *Star Wars: The Mandalorian Search and Find*, you can prove your chops on the harshest planets found along the Outer Rim! In this 32-page hardcover activity book by writer Daniel Wallace and artist Art Mawhinney, the events of Season One of *Star Wars: The Mandalorian* (2019-present) are retold through intricate illustrations that explore exotic locations including Nevarro, Tatooine, Arvala-7, and more. Moff Gideon has issued a bounty on Grogu, and it's your task to track

down the Force-sensitive child and notorious outlaws Din Djarin, Cara Dune, Greef Karga, Kuiil, and IG-11.

Each double-page illustration is crammed from top to bottom with droids, creatures, bounty hunters, Imperial stormtroopers, and other dangerous characters. With so much activity going on, it won't be easy to find Djarin and his crew in their attempts to hide Grogu from the Empire. You must rely on your innate diligence and perception to see past the distractions and zero in on your quarry. Act fast before they have the chance to escape!

Fans of all ages will enjoy this meticulously detailed search-and-find experience. Published by Studio Fun International, *Star Wars: The Mandalorian Search and Find* is on sale March 29.

Hope Falls

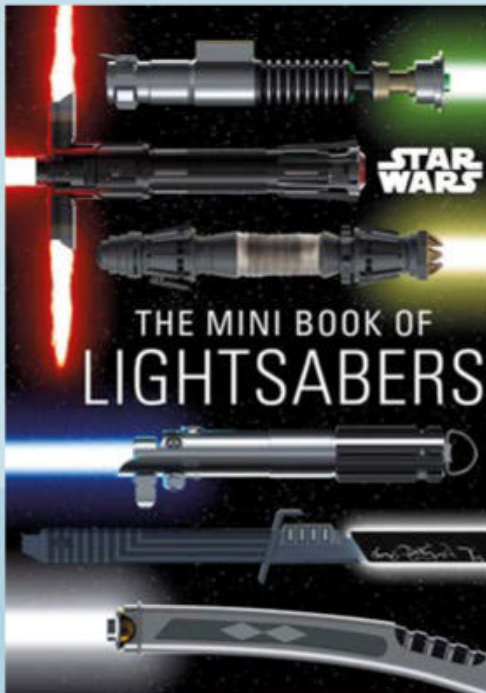
Padmé Amidala deals with the chaos of the Clone Wars in *Star Wars: Queen's Hope*

We've faced something of an extended wait for E.K. Johnston's final chapter in her hit Padmé Amidala trilogy, but at last *Star Wars: Queen's Hope*—the epic conclusion of the saga that began with the novels *Queen's Peril* and *Queen's Shadow*—arrives in stores on April 5, published by Disney Lucasfilm Press.

When Padmé departs on a classified mission, her handmaiden Sabé steps into the role of Naboo's Senator, but a front-row seat to the machinations of the Galactic Senate horrifies Sabé, leading to a gut-wrenching decision. At the same time, Padmé's secret marriage to Anakin Skywalker puts them both at risk as she deals with Count Dooku's Separatists and Chancellor Palpatine's blatant grabs for power.



01



01

Star Wars: The Mini Book of Lightsabers

You can hold a galaxy of lightsabers in your hand with this pint-sized hardcover book from Insight Editions. *Star Wars: The Mini Book of Lightsabers* explores the legendary weapons carried by the Jedi and the Sith, detailing iconic lightsaber hilts seen in the films, television shows, videogames, and even the spin-off comics and novels. Take a close look at the weapons carried by Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker, Kylo Ren, Mace Windu, and more, including the Mandalorian Darksaber. Relying on both photography and highly detailed illustrations, this mini guide is a must-have reference book for any *Star Wars* fan. In stores April 12.

02



02

Star Wars: The Tiny Book of Legendary Women

This palm-sized reference book is a celebration of the powerful women found throughout the *Star Wars* saga. *Star Wars: The Tiny Book of Legendary Women* is a 192-page hardcover filled with inspirational and funny quotes from the galaxy's greatest female characters—Jedi Knights, rebel warriors, and lethal villains included! You can find a galaxy's worth of adventure in these pages, thanks to the wisdom of Leia Organa, Rey, Ahsoka Tano, Fennec Shand, Bo-Katan Kryze, Jyn Erso, Doctor Aphra, and other characters. A sturdy slipcase makes the book a treasured keepsake, while its ribbon marker doubles as a hanger, allowing the book to be displayed as a decorative ornament. Published by Insight Editions on April 12.

03



03

The Ultimate Star Wars: The Mandalorian Sticker Collection

Din Djarin, Grogu, IG-11, Moff Gideon, and all the rest can be found in this new sticker book that celebrates the fan-favorite characters from the Disney+ series *The Mandalorian*. Packed with facts about the show, the book features more than 1,000 stickers that showcase the heroes, villains, monsters, starships, and other creations that have made *The Mandalorian* a smash hit. The perfect activity book for young readers who can't get enough of the series, *The Ultimate Star Wars: The Mandalorian Sticker Collection* from publisher DK Children is in stores on March 8.

Comics Roundup

Chart a course for the stars in this month's *Star Wars* comics.

Scoundrel and Sidekick !

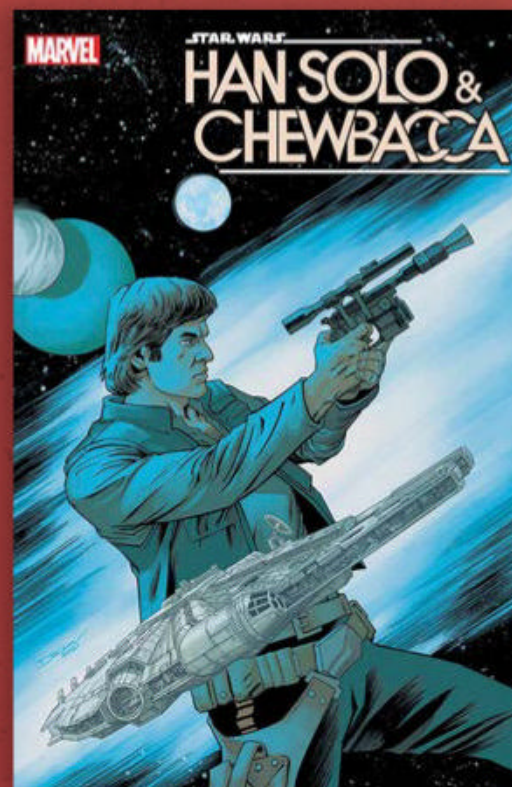
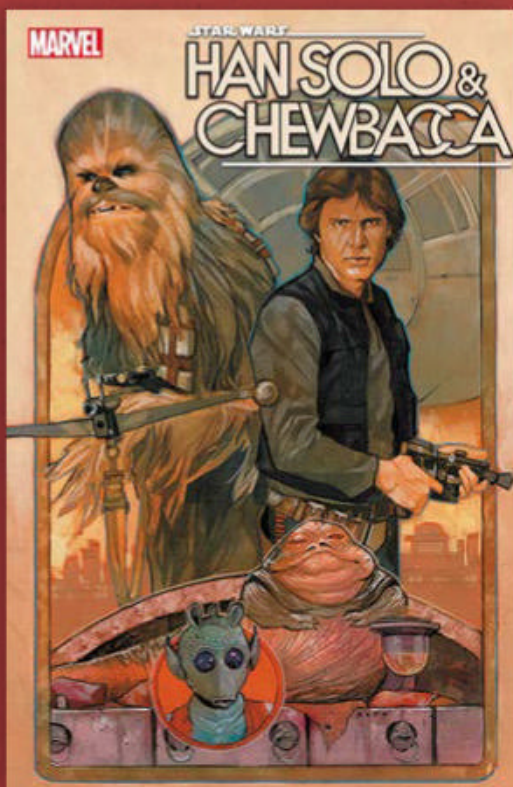
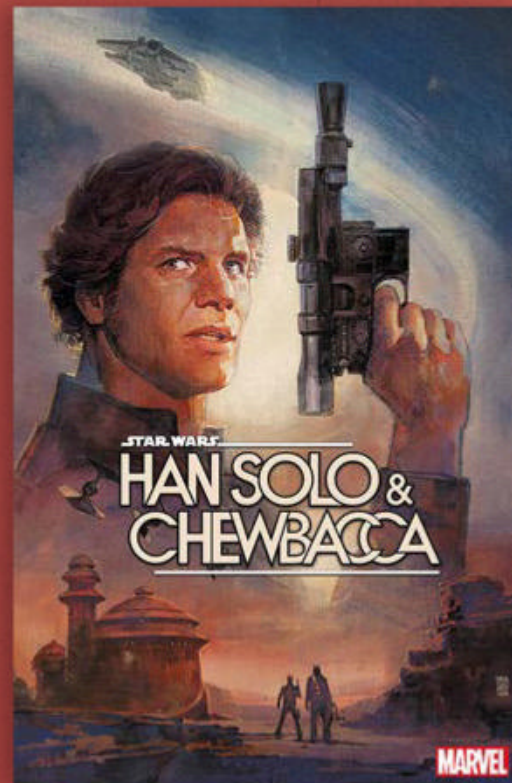
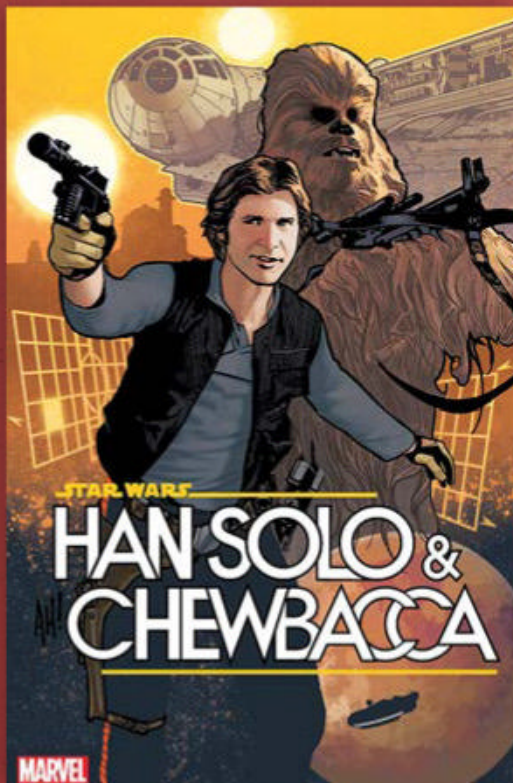
A Life of Crime Unfolds in *Han Solo & Chewbacca* #1

An all-new *Star Wars* comic debuts in March with the release of *Han Solo & Chewbacca* #1. The series, set a few years before the events of *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977), sees Han and Chewie teaming up with the bounty hunter Greedo to execute a heist for Jabba the Hutt. What could possibly go wrong?

Written by Marc Guggenheim and penciled by David Messina, this new monthly comic follows Han and Chewie during their scoundrel days, running shady deals and smuggling contraband aboard the *Millennium Falcon*. "It's interesting, because the cornerstone of Han's character is that he wants to be a jerk but [he] has this idealistic streak that always gets in his way," Guggenheim told *StarWars.com*. "He aspires to cynicism, but deep down he's a hopeless romantic at heart. I've searched for opportunities to force Han to choose between his lesser and greater angels."

For inspiration, Guggenheim channeled pulp outlaw adventures including a 1969 Western classic starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford. "At its most basic, the story is *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, but with Han and Chewie as Butch and Sundance," he explains. "Jabba gives them what should be an easy job: steal something and bring it back. But the job turns out to be anything but easy, as everything that can go wrong promptly does."

"Each issue ends with some kind of cliffhanger," he adds. "Sometimes it's a revelation, other times it's



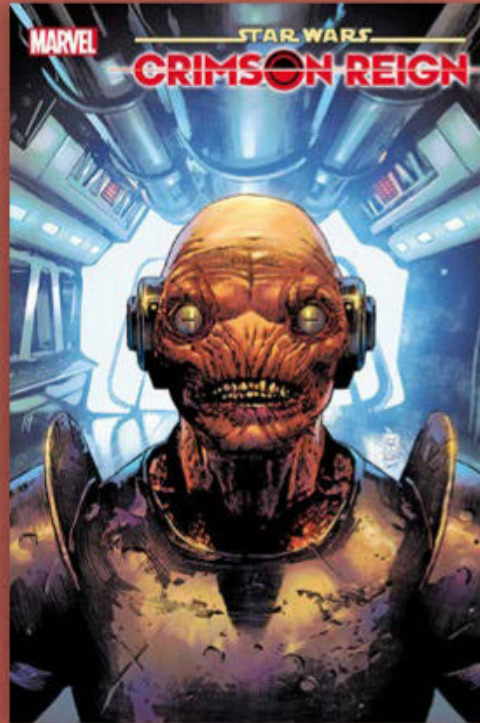
placing Han and/or Chewie in an impossible spot. The last page of issue one, if I've played my cards right, [is] definitely going to have people talking."

Plenty of new faces will pop up during the series, including a marshal that Guggenheim describes as "the corporate equivalent of a bounty hunter,"

who will prove to be a thorn in Han and Chewie's sides. "That character's my tip of the hat to the 'super posse' in *Butch and Sundance*, and they're simply a blast to write. David Messina has come up with an incredible, iconic design for them that's going to blow people away."

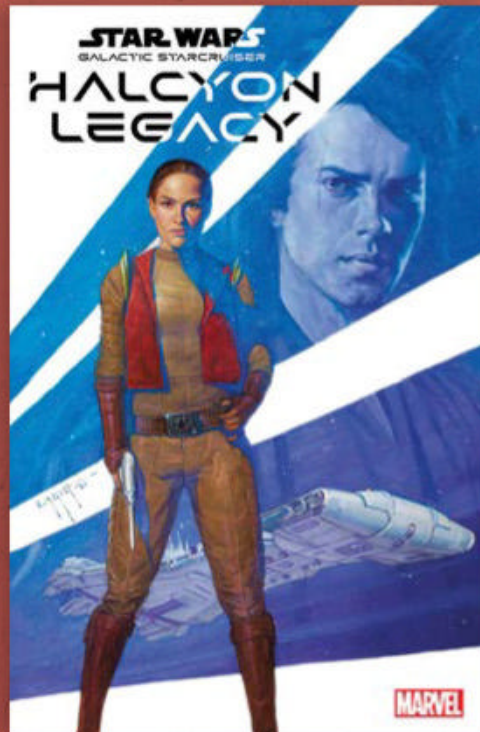
Crimson Reign #3

Lady Qi'ra, known to fans from her leading role in *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018), is now the head of the Crimson Dawn criminal syndicate, and she has grand plans to reshape the galaxy from the ground up! Issue #3 of this limited series, from writer Charles Soule and artist Steven Cummings, focuses on one of Qi'ra's key operatives: the Archivist known as Sava Madelin Sun, a former expert in the dark side of the Force. This enigmatic woman has all the resources of Crimson Dawn at her fingertips, and her quest will lead her to mysteries underpinning the Empire's formation and the fall of the Jedi Order.



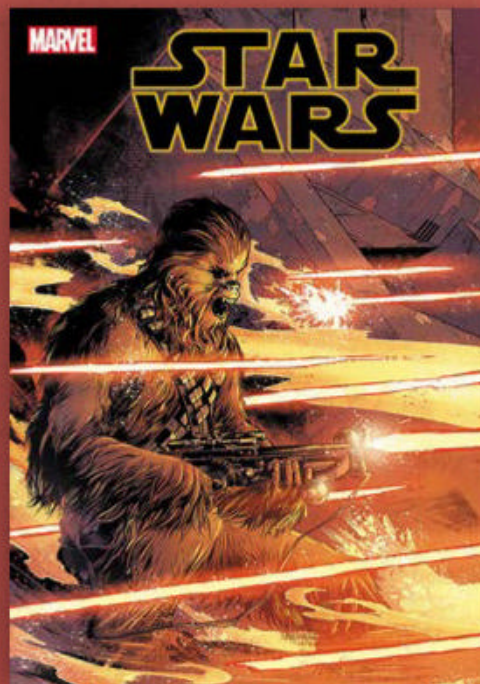
Halcyon Legacy #3

Fans can embark on Walt Disney World's *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser* experience in March 2022—just in time for this limited series (by writer Ethan Sacks and artist Will Sliney) to reveal centuries of secrets behind the famous starliner *Halcyon*! The story in issue #3 takes place during the Clone Wars, and sees Anakin Skywalker and Padmé Amidala book passage aboard the *Halcyon* to track down a senator with suspected Separatist ties, which puts them on a collision course with dark-side assassin Asajj Ventress. A bonus tale, set fifty years later, forces the *Halcyon*'s crew to plot a desperate escape through a solar storm!



Star Wars #22

Issue #22 of the ongoing Marvel series kicks off "The Dawn Alliance," a new three-part story courtesy of writer Charles Soule and artist Ramon Rosanas. The Rebel Alliance fleet prepares to welcome its lost division back home—but to do so it must rely on intelligence provided by the untrustworthy criminal syndicate Crimson Dawn. Meanwhile, Starlight Squadron and a group of rogue Pathfinders, led by Kes Dameron, head out on an unauthorized mission to save one of their own. *Star Wars #22* features a cover by Carlo Pagulayan and a variant cover by Rod Reis.



Incoming

Don't Miss These
Upcoming Releases



MARCH

Doctor Aphra #19

Marvel Comics

Writer: Alyssa Wong

Artist: Minkyu Jung

Cover Artist: W. Scott Forbes

Bounty Hunters #21

Marvel Comics

Writer: Ethan Sacks

Artist: Paolo Villanelli

Cover Artist: Giuseppe Camuncoli

Darth Vader #21

Marvel Comics

Writer: Greg Pak

Artist: Raffaele Ienco

Cover Artist:

Paul Renaud

APRIL

Star Wars #23

Marvel Comics

Writer: Charles Soule

Artist: Ramon Rosanas

Cover Artist:

Carlo Pagulayan

Crimson Reign #4 (of 5)

Marvel Comics

Writer: Charles Soule

Artists: Steven Cummings

Cover Artist: Leinil Francis Yu

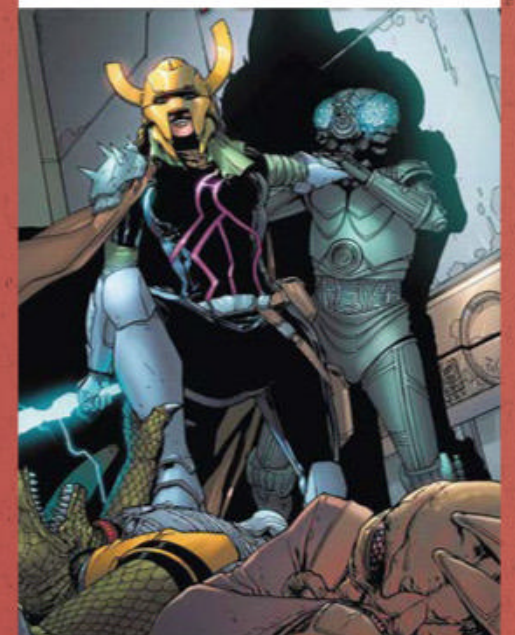
Halcyon Legacy #4 (of 5)

Marvel Comics

Writer: Ethan Sacks

Artists: Will Sliney

Cover Artist: E.M. Gist





Luminous Lore

Shining a light on *Star Wars: The High Republic*.

Trail of Shadows

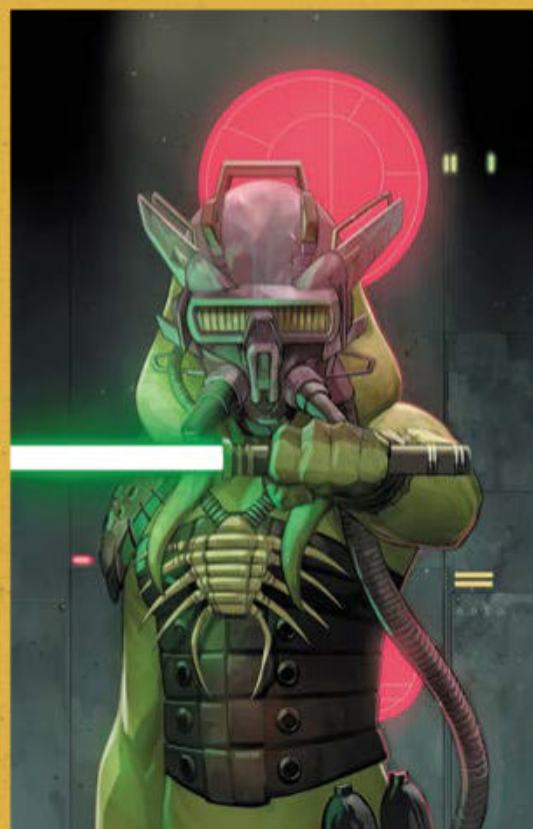
Death stalks the streets of the High Republic

As we all recover from the cataclysmic finale of *The High Republic* Phase One, devastated *Star Wars* fans can find solace in the trade paperback edition of *Trial of Shadows*, compiling all five issues of the galactic crime thriller into one 120-page volume.

Written by Daniel José Older, with art by David Wachter, and published by Marvel Comics on April 12, the story follows Emerick Capthor, a Jedi investigator tasked with solving the murder of a Jedi Master. Alongside private eye Sian Holt, Capthor soon uncovers a trail of lies and deceit that could determine the fate of the Jedi, the Hutts, the Nihil, and everyone else in the galaxy! From Coruscant to one of the most crime-riddled planets in the space, it's a mystery that could bring down the Republic!



The End of the Line for the Jedi?



Marvel Comics' High Republic cliffhanger!

Time is running out for the Jedi Knights and the entire Republic, as the conflict against the Nihil escalates ever further in *Star Wars: The High Republic* Volume 3: *Jedi's End*.

The Jedi prepare a daring rescue mission, their sights targeted on the Nihil's floating fortress deep in the heart of No-Space. But would an undercover infiltration prove better than an all-out attack? Meanwhile, the true origins of Marchion Ro, sworn enemy of the Jedi Order, are revealed!

Collecting issues 11 to 15 of Marvel Comics' *The High Republic* series, and the two-part event *Eye of the Storm*, *Jedi's End* is in stores on April 20.



Republic Roundup

PHASE ONE AVAILABLE NOW

Light of the Jedi

Writer: Charles Soule
Del Rey, Adult novel

A Test of Courage

Writer: Justina Ireland
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Middle grade novel

The Great Jedi Rescue

Writer: Cavan Scott
Artist: Petur Antonsson
Disney Lucasfilm Press, 8x8 storybook

Into the Dark

Writer: Claudia Gray
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Young adult novel

The Rising Storm

Writer: Cavan Scott
Del Rey, Adult novel

Race to Crashpoint Tower

Writer: Daniel José Older
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Middle grade novel

Out of the Shadows

Writer: Justina Ireland
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Young adult novel

Tempest Runner

Writer: Cavan Scott
Del Rey, Audio original novel

Showdown at the Fair

Writer: George Mann
Artist: Petur Antonsson
Disney Lucasfilm Press, 8x8 storybook

The Fallen Star

Writer: Claudia Gray
Del Rey, Adult novel

Mission to Disaster

Writer: Justina Ireland
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Middle grade novel

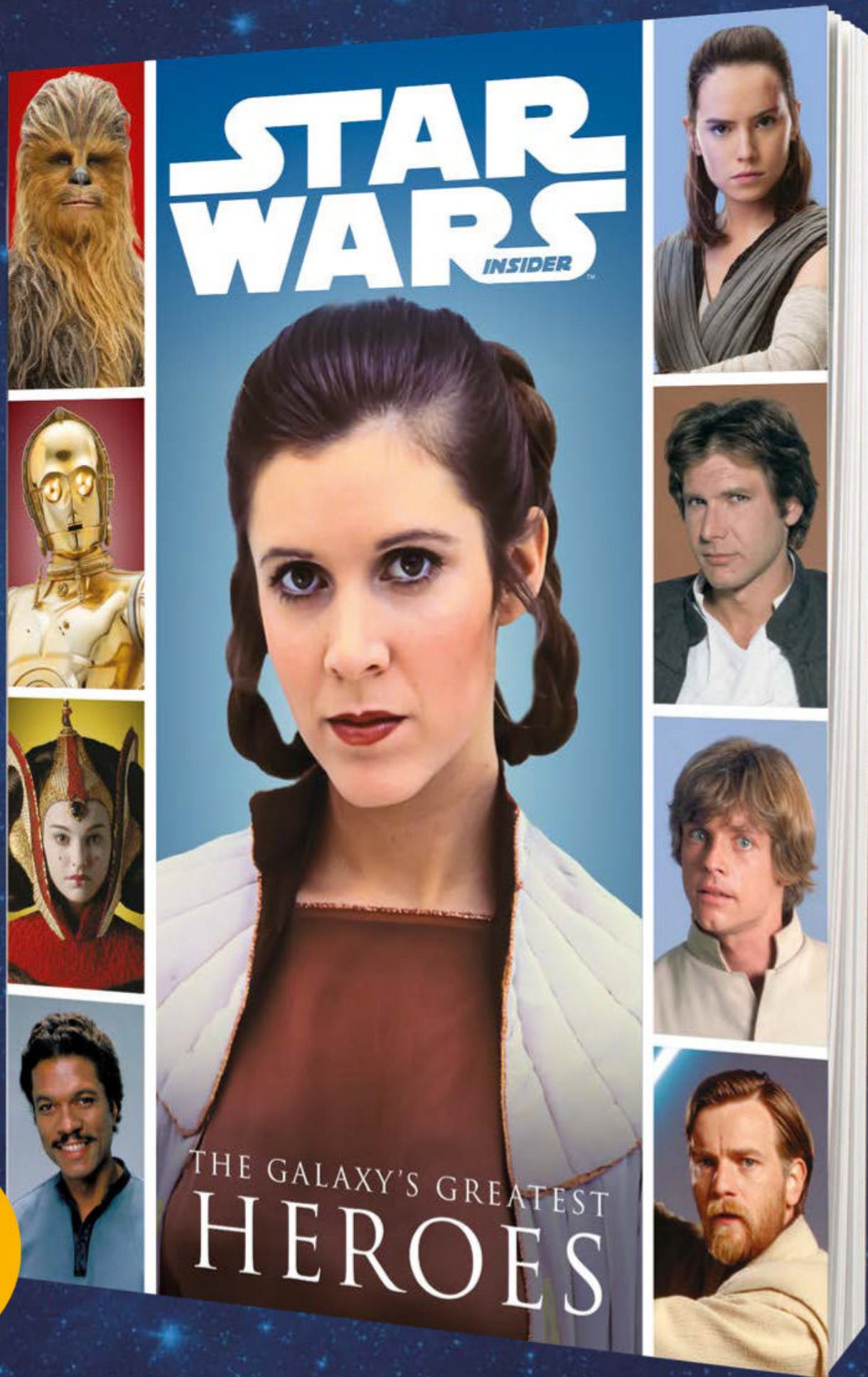
Midnight Horizon

Writer: Daniel José Older
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Young adult novel

The Battle for Starlight

Writer: George Mann
Artist: Petur Antonsson
Disney Lucasfilm Press, 8x8 storybook

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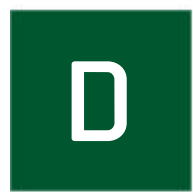
Discover how the most iconic *Star Wars* heroes were brought to life in this collection of incredible interviews!

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Decades before computer technology would enable filmmakers to render incredible

beasts in photorealistic detail for their movies, a much more nuts-and-bolts approach was the order of the day. Beneath the 2,000 pounds of latex, wires, fiberglass, and gaffer tape that were required to make Jabba the Hutt a living, breathing, drooling screen presence in *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* (1983), there were three talented performers who spent many hours twisting themselves into impossible angles in the cramped, sweaty guts of the crime lord.

Toby Philpott operated Jabba's left arm and head, along with his slimy tongue; chief puppeteer David Barclay operated Jabba's right arm and jaw, relaying the Hutt's dialogue in English during filming; and Mike Edmonds (who also portrayed Logray the Ewok in the film) was tasked with flicking the gangster's tail. *Star Wars Insider* reunited the trio to find out what it was like to embody Jabba the Hutt.

***Star Wars Insider:* What were your first experiences with puppetry?**

Dave Barclay: I grew up with performance and puppetry in my life. My parents were actors who met in London at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Wanting to work together, they decided to create a traveling puppet company, which they named "Pex Puppets."

Between the two of them, they performed every aspect of the business. My father made all the scenery and props. He sculpted the puppet heads, my mother dressed the costumes, and they both wrote original plays and managed bookings and accounts.

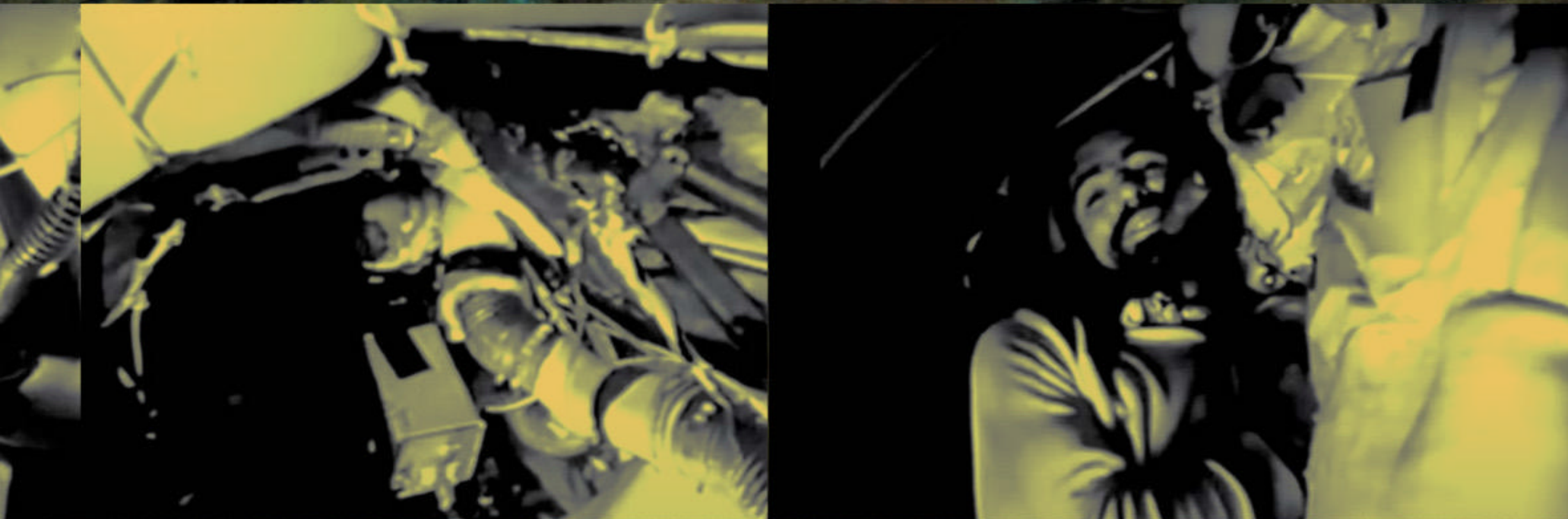
So, it was at age four that I received my first string puppet, which I instantly took to, and I started performing in my parents' shows at age six. Puppetry became a daily part of my life, and then I started making my own puppets. ►

INSIDE JABBA THE HUTT

Star Wars Insider speaks to puppeteers Dave Barclay, Toby Philpott, and Mike Edmonds about their experiences inside the guts of the galaxy's vilest gangster.

WORDS: BRANDON WAINERDI





01 Mike Edmonds (left), Dave Barclay (center), and Toby Philpott (right) at work inside the Jabba the Hutt puppet during filming of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*.



01



03

► **Mike Edmonds:** My first experience with puppeteering actually came during *The Dark Crystal* (1982). I worked for Jim Henson on that film, playing the part of Aughra in all her mobile shots. I was also assistant puppeteer to Dave Goelz (who performed Gonzo for *The Muppets*) on one of the Skeksis.

Toby Philpott: Just like Dave, I grew up around puppets. They were my dad's passion: not only did he

perform in his own solo show as "Pantopuck the Puppetman," but he also taught workshops and wrote several books.

Like him, I eventually developed a solo show, but mine focused on juggling, magic, acrobatics, and clowning, while only occasionally working for puppet companies. I spent much of the early 1970s training in all kinds of performance skills, including mime and working with masks.

02

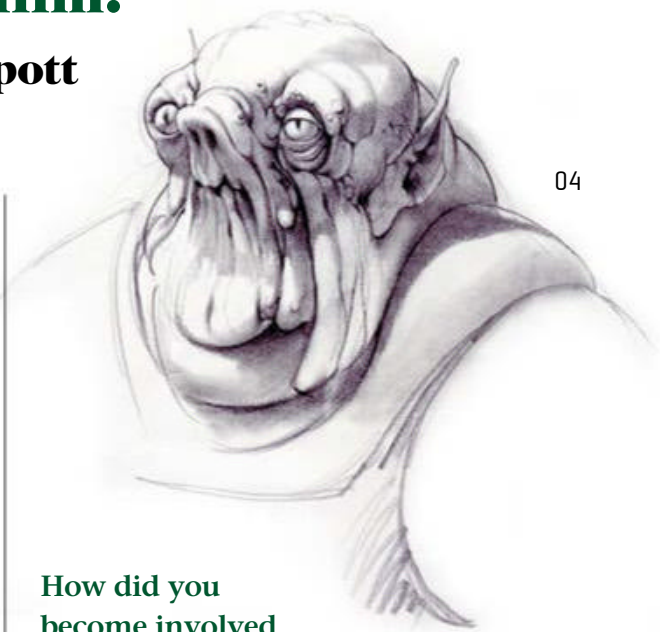
"It was only really when we reached the set, and saw that Jabba was center stage, that it began to dawn on me just how important he would be for the film."

Toby Philpott

02 Art by Ralph McQuarrie featuring Jabba the Hutt's throne room.

03 The throne room set from *Return of the Jedi*.

04 An early Jabba concept sketch by Ralph McQuarrie.



04

How did you become involved with Stuart Freeborn and his team at Elstree Studios?

DB: In 1978, I had heard that there was a summer job in Hamleys, the famous toy store in London, demonstrating Pelham Puppets. This was a no-brainer for me: I had been puppeteering with those



kinds of marionettes for most of my young life.

One day, out of the blue, Mark Hamill came into that very store to purchase some Pelham Puppets for his collection. Mark commissioned me to build an 18-inch-high, custom-made Darth Vader marionette, which I did, and then he invited me to Elstree Studios to present the marionette and have a tour. Being a huge fan of the original *Star Wars*, I could not believe my luck.

During a break in filming, Mark took me to meet Stuart Freeborn and I showed him photos of some of my work. A week later, Stuart offered me a job on *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), to assist Frank Oz with a creature named Yoda.

ME: Robert Watts liked my work on *The Empire Strikes Back*, where I had played one of the Ugnaughts in the carbon-freezing chamber scene. Because of that, they'd kept me in mind for any parts that might come up in the next movie, and I was eventually offered two parts: Logray, the Ewok medicine man, and Jabba's Tail.



05

05 Many ideas were drawn for the Hutt, including this concept by Ken Ralston.

06 One of Ralph McQuarrie's more extreme concepts for Jabba the Hutt.



06

► **TP:** My mime teacher suggested that I answer an ad in the trade paper, calling for people to operate big creatures for *The Dark Crystal*. They needed very fit, very creative people to operate in uncomfortable positions.

Getting that job reintroduced me to the puppet world, and a fabulous crew, which included Dave Barclay, who was a friend of my dad's. When he was offered the role of chief puppeteer for Jabba, he requested me as his "co-pilot."

DB: After *Empire*, I was working on promotion for *The Dark Crystal*, when I received a call from Stuart. He had started work on the next *Star Wars* film and there was a new character, and he asked whether I could supervise the build. But because I was under contract to Jim Henson, I had to turn down Stuart. I was devastated.

But a couple of months later, Stuart called again. He told me that he had a brilliant team

crafting Jabba (many of whom had worked on *The Dark Crystal*), so the build was covered, but this time he wanted to know if I would like to be chief puppeteer for Jabba. I was flabbergasted! That was something I couldn't refuse!

I asked Jim Henson if I could perform Jabba, as I was already lined up to work on Yoda again with Frank. Jim said as long as I completed the work for *The Dark Crystal*, then he would release me for the filming of Jabba. He was an amazing guy. Talk about having your cake and eating it too!

How was the role and the character of Jabba initially described to you?

TP: I had very little idea what I was getting into. Not only was the whole thing *very* secretive, but the Jabba puppet was still in development and we didn't have a script. Actually, at that point, I hadn't even seen the first two *Star Wars* movies, so I had to go find a cinema showing a double-bill.

I had assumed that he was some kind of background alien. We then received the relevant script pages, and I immediately noticed that we

07 Physical maquettes were made to help visualize the look of Jabba.

08 Jabba the Hutt and his notorious court of scum and villainy.



08



had scenes with nearly all of the major characters. It was only really when we reached the set, and saw that Jabba was center stage, that it began to dawn on me just how important he would be for the film.

How did you prepare and practice to be ready for filming?

TP: We had fittings, of course, but not a lot of actual practice inside the Jabba puppet, since he wasn't completed until the last minute. So, our challenge became how to coordinate this team of puppeteers and builders, *live*, during shooting.

CB: Like so many puppets and animatronics, those first few hours of bringing the character to life seem almost impossible. But with rehearsal and watching back the video tapes of the movements, our bodies got used to the unique physical requirements of the role. We suddenly began to feel at home inside Jabba, which is just as well, as we spent nearly 10 hours a day inside of him!

What was a typical day of shooting like for the Jabba team?

TP: We checked in at 8:00 AM, began the shoot at 8:30, and then worked until 6:00 PM, Monday

09



10



09 Declan Mulholland portrayed Jabba in a scene cut from the original version of *A New Hope* (1977).

10 The digital Jabba from the 2004 DVD edition.

11 A Joe Johnston concept sketch of Jabba.

to Friday. I would guess that we spent about a week in the throne room, a few days on the sail barge, plus second unit pick-ups.

It was easy enough, since we had no costumes or makeup to deal with. When we were ready, we would just climb up, because the palace set was built off the ground, to allow for both the puppeteers and for the rancor pit. From then on (except for tea breaks and lunch), we were alone and cut off from the mayhem, only able to hear the instructions from the director, Richard Marquand.

We always worked Jabba as a unified being, which meant we were continuously practicing our coordination and expressiveness. We were the main character in the scenes, so there was quite an intense pressure to get it right.

How did you communicate with the rest of the cast and crew on-set?

DB: Every day, Toby and I were inside Jabba's chest (his "cockpit," as we called it). We could not see out or hear anything, but I had a microphone, which was connected to speakers, so what I said could be heard by everyone on the set.

Tony Dawe (the production sound supervisor) had the unenviable task of listening

to our rambling conversations inside Jabba throughout the day, and then had to fade up my mic when Jabba spoke and fade it down when we were planning our next move (or just telling a joke between takes). The director, Richard Marquand, had a mic that he used to talk to Jabba, who he regarded as just another actor on set, and we used gestures to physically show that we understood what he was saying. ►

JABBA'S JOURNEY FROM SCRIPT TO SCREEN:

Jabba the Hutt was initially slated to make his debut in *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977), and was portrayed as a fur-clad human played by Irish character actor Declan Mulholland. Director George Lucas had always intended Jabba to be a creature, and the scene was relegated to the cutting room floor until it was reinstated with a CGI Jabba for the Special Edition release in 1997.

Lucas decided to revisit the character as one of the main villains in *Return of the Jedi*, as with a larger budget to finish his trilogy he could show Jabba as originally envisaged: as a grotesque alien. Designing Jabba proved to be a difficult process, however, with nearly every member of Industrial Light & Magic's art department and the movie's creature shop taking a stab at the gangster's vile form. Finally, a sluglike concept maquette from Phil Tippett won the Lucas stamp of approval, and the task of bringing Jabba to life was sent across the pond to makeup and creature designer Stuart Freeborn.

Freeborn's team considered Jabba to be a "high priority" monster. The puppet would need to be fully articulated, able to believably drink liquids, eat food, and have "convincing use of his arms and hands to hit people and grab things." In short, he had to be able to act.

By the end of their project, the Hutt had taken three months of production time to fabricate, and had cost nearly \$500,000, becoming perhaps the most expensive puppet ever made for a film at that time.



11

“Richard Marquand had a mic that he used to talk to Jabba, who he regarded as just another actor on set.”

Dave Barclay

► **ME:** I could only really communicate with Dave and Toby, inside the body of Jabba, and that was simply because we were working so closely next to each other. But we all had earpieces on, as well as monitors that showed us the view through a camera.

TP: We each had those headsets, which were on a loop linking just the Jabba team, so that the guys outside (operating the animatronic eyes by remote control) could relay instructions to us, update us on what was happening, and give us feedback on the effectiveness of our moves.

Dave and I simply had tiny, grainy monitors hanging around our necks—*nothing* like modern phone screens—which showed a black and white image from a CCTV camera, up in the roof of the studio. Mike actually had room for a full-size TV monitor.

We had been spoiled on *The Dark Crystal*, with access to monitors showing the actual through-the-lens image, so you knew where you were in the frame, and we were able to see the rushes at the end of each day, so we had some idea of what worked best. We never got to see rushes for Jabba. It was all just trusting each other.

“I used to be able to read the newspaper between shots while we were inside Jabba.”

Mike Edmonds

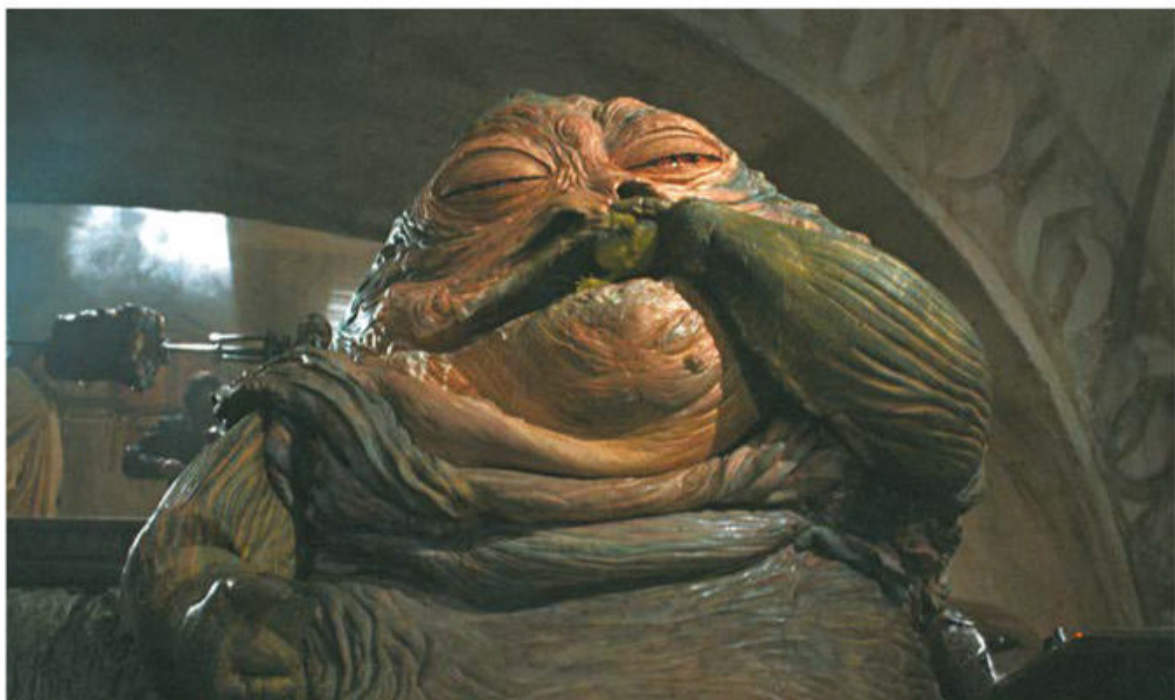
One of the most complicated shots must have been when Jabba ate that frog. How did you make that believable?

TP: My right hand mostly left the tongue free inside the mouth, as I was doing the bigger head moves. We only used the active tongue a couple of times, like licking the lips, eating the frog, and threatening Leia

12



13



after she was caught. Of course, I didn't touch the live frog in the hookah. That was some giant creature borrowed from the zoo. What I handled was a rubber frog and, given my poor visibility, someone had to hand me the frog, out of frame.

I used my right hand to turn the head to the left, tipping it forward to look down. My left hand grabbed the frog, and brought it up towards Jabba's face, as his head settled back, freeing my right hand to go inside the tongue. Dave opened the mouth, I shoved the frog in, he started chewing, and then I slid the tongue out so Jabba could lick his lips. Simple!

12 Dave Carson (left) manipulated Jabba's left arm in this pick-up shot, filmed later, assisted by makeup designer Phil Tippet (right).

13 Toby Philpott operated Jabba's tongue and left arm during principle photography, enabling the slug to enjoy a little snack.

Do you have any other favorite moments from set?

ME: I used to be able to read the newspaper between shots while we were inside Jabba because, surprisingly, there was enough light! I also supplied sweets and candies to the other two guys.

DB: While we were inside Jabba, I was able to watch Harrison Ford on my TV monitor awoken from carbonite. It was stunning. He was so good and so consistent in every take. A truly great actor.

In fact, all the actors, performers, and crew were at the top of their profession during that entire shoot. It was just an honor to be there with everyone. 🐸

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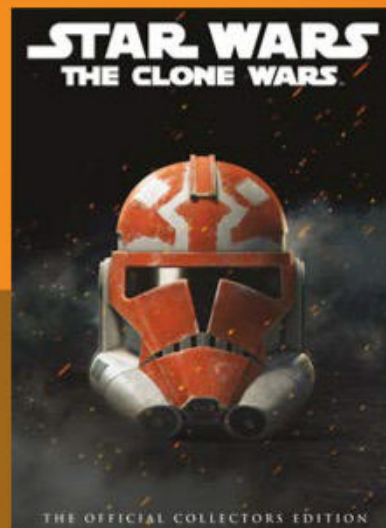
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CRIME

AND PUNISHMENT

Insider investigates the good, the bad, and the ugly of the *Star Wars* galaxy.

WORDS: JAMES FLOYD

In *Star Wars*, good and bad are not necessarily the same as law-abiding or criminal. For every unbending Jedi upholding peace and justice, there's a Han Solo, steering a more morally ambiguous path through the galaxy, but both are still "the good guys."

For those willing to step beyond the confines of the law entirely—villains like the notorious Jabba the Hutt—crime can pay very well indeed, and affords them the power to mete out their own form of justice to those who step out of line (Solo again!). A marshal on the Outer Rim might protect locals from ne'er-do-wells while masquerading as a legendary warrior, while Imperials like Agent Alexandr Kallus maintain law and order through the Imperial Security Bureau—the Empire's secret police, whose activities are sinister to say the least.

That being said, while *Star Wars* incorporates shades of gray into many of its characters, there has always been a clear separation between lawmakers and lawbreakers. *Star Wars Insider* takes a look at the key figures and organizations on either side of the law.



MOST WANTED

While crime existed at all levels of galactic society, organized crime represented a large threat to legitimate authority and a corrupting force. Others viewed it as a quick, albeit less scrupulous, way to riches and power. At the top of the underworld during the rise of the Empire were the five syndicates: Crimson Dawn, Black Sun, the Hutt Clan, the Pyke Syndicate, and the Crymorah Syndicate. Below them were smaller cartels and gangs like Lady Proxima's White Worm gang on Corellia, all the way down to small-time operations and independent criminals for hire. A generation later, groups like the ruthless Guavian Death Gang and Kanjiklub vied for control of the galaxy's crime, while smaller gangs like the Spice Runners of Kijimi ran smuggling operations.



LEGAL NOTE

The name and look of Hutt Clan leader Marlo came from Marlon Brando, who portrayed Don Corleone in *The Godfather* (1972).

The Hutt Clan

■ The Hutts had thrived as a criminal cartel for centuries, even during the High Republic. At the time of the Clone Wars, it was a conglomerate of the five Hutt family clans, or kajidics, that jointly ruled via the Grand Hutt Council. From extortion rackets to the slave trade, the long-lived Hutts controlled wide swaths of the galaxy's unlawful activity as well as a large chunk of the galaxy simply known as Hutt Space.

During the Clone Wars, the Hutts sided with the Republic, even allowing them to use Hutt-controlled hyperspace lanes after the Jedi rescued Jabba's son, Rotta. But not every Hutt followed the

Clan's rule. Ziro allied himself with Dooku against Jabba, and was ultimately assassinated before he could reveal council secrets to the Republic. Later in the war, Maul had council member Oruba murdered and forced Jabba and the Clan to join his Shadow Collective briefly for the assault on Mandalore.

At the height of the Empire, the Hutt Clan was firmly under Jabba's leadership, from his base on Tatooine. He forged an alliance with Darth Vader, providing Hutt resources in exchange for Imperial goodwill. Though some Hutts like Sutha and his nephews, Gorga and Graballa, remained loyal to



Jabba, others like Bokku plotted against him. Jabba sometimes worked with the rebels, but maintained his bounty on Han Solo over a lost spice shipment. This led to his own undoing as Leia Organa slew him while rescuing Solo.

With no clear successor after Jabba's death, the Hutt Clan lost both influence and territory in the decades that followed. Jabba's majordomo Bib Fortuna assumed his boss' own operations on Tatooine, until he was "retired" by Boba Fett.

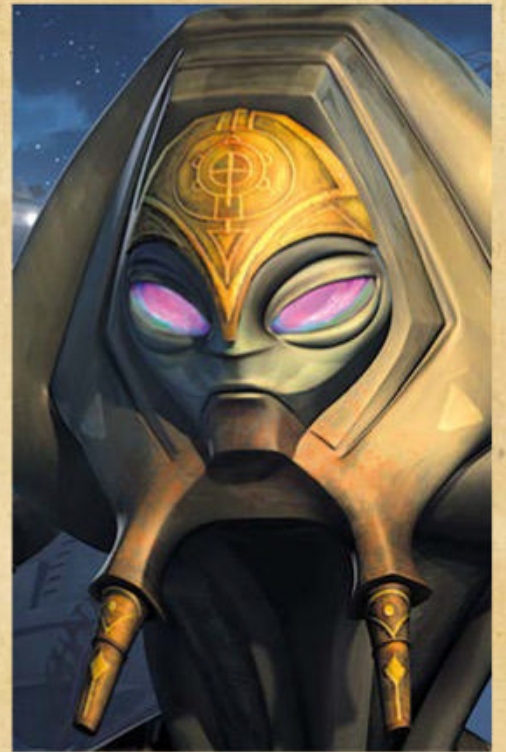


Pyke Syndicate

■ Based on Oba Diah, the Pykes focused their criminal efforts on the drug trade. With exclusive control of the spice mines of neighboring Kessel, the Pyke Syndicate became rich supplying the Coruscant underworld. During the Clone Wars, their leader, Lom Pyke, allied the gang with the Shadow Collective. Later, he admitted the gang's role in Sifo-Dyas' death to Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, but was killed by Darth Tyranus, the real mastermind. Ahsoka Tano and the Martez sisters ran afoul of Lom's successor, Marg Krim. Years later, the Kessel mining operation was



thrown into disarray when Qi'ra killed capo Quay Tolsite during Han Solo's coaxium heist. Later still, aspiring crime lord Boba Fett went to war with the Pykes.



Crimson Dawn

■ Known for its ruthlessness, Crimson Dawn rose to prominence in the final years of the Republic. Drawn into the Shadow Collective, they participated in the taking of Mandalore. After the war, Maul assumed secret control of the syndicate and kept the refined Dryden Vos as the public leader. Vos bought and secured the loyalty of Qi'ra, who moved up to become his second-in-command. After a botched coaxium heist,

Tobias Beckett appealed to Vos for a second chance, and Beckett, Han Solo, and Qi'ra devised a plan to steal from the Pyke-controlled Kessel mines. When the

appropriated coaxium was delivered, Qi'ra betrayed and killed Vos. She took control of the syndicate, answering only to Maul. After Maul's death, under Lady Qi'ra, the organization lay in hiding for years, until it publicly announced the auction of Han Solo in carbonite, stolen from Boba Fett. Despite Vader crashing the sale and nearly killing her in a duel, Qi'ra had succeeded in driving a wedge between the Empire and the Hutts. During the rise of the New Republic, Crimson Dawn faded significantly from its former glory.



LEGAL NOTE

According to Jon Kasdan, co-writer of *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018), the name Crimson Dawn was intended as a subtle hint at Maul's involvement.

Black Sun

■ One of the largest players in the galactic underworld, Black Sun had its fingers in all sorts of criminal endeavors. By the time of the Clone Wars, the organization was led by Xomit Grunseit and other Falleen, though Ziro the Hutt once also served as a vigo, or underboss. After Savage Opress beheaded Black Sun's leadership



at their base on Mustafar, Ziton Moj pledged the syndicate to Maul's Shadow Collective. Despite this alliance, they violently feuded with their fellow collective member, the Pykes. After the rise of the Empire, Black Sun hunted down an incognito Ahsoka Tano. Ketsu



Onyo and Sabine Wren defected from the Empire to join the group, though Onyo later left Wren for dead. Years later, Black Sun plotted with the Red Key Raiders to bribe New Republic senators but was thwarted by Sinjir Rath Velus and Han Solo.

Ohnaka Gang

■ The crew led by the carefree but profit-driven Weequay Hondo Ohnaka proved to be a major thorn in the side for both the Republic and the Separatists. After capturing Count Dooku, Ohnaka and his raiders seized Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker and held all three for ransom at their Florrum base before their escape. The gang encountered Jedi on more occasions, during a farm village raid and a kyber crystal theft. Despite being kidnapped, Ahsoka Tano, with the aid of some younglings, allied with Hondo and his gang to fend off an attack by General Grievous.

The crew's loyalties were severely tested when Maul



and Savage Opress convinced half of the gang to betray Ohnaka, but the crime boss welcomed his treacherous cohorts back after the Sith were driven off. Sometime under the Empire, Ohnaka lost

his pirate gang, which later regrouped under the leadership of Skragg. However, in time, Hondo would resurface on Batuu with a new venture, Ohnaka Transport Solutions.

Broken Horn Syndicate

■ During Imperial occupation, Lothal's underworld dealings fell mostly on Cikatro Vizago and his Broken Horn Syndicate. Calling his black market and extortion operation a syndicate is a bit of a stretch, as it was just Vizago and a handful of IG-RM enforcer droids. Occasionally, the Devaronian Vizago hired Hera Syndulla and the *Ghost* crew for arms smuggling in exchange for credits and information.



LAYING DOWN THE LAW

In the bright center of the galaxy, law enforcement was often handled at many levels of government. Metropolises like Canto Bight and Coronet City had their own municipal police departments. Worlds like Mandalore and Naboo had planetary police and security forces, sometimes combined with their militaries. Coruscant had the Coruscant Security Force, a huge organization that utilized both droids and organic beings to maintain law and order, which was sometimes even supported by Jedi investigators. At a galactic level, apprehending criminals too dangerous or difficult for local police was handled by various groups like the Republic's Sector Rangers and Judicial Forces, or the security bureaus of the Empire and the First Order. But out on the fringes of civilization, often the law was kept by just one individual, filling the roll of both sheriff and judge.



Greef Karga and Cara Dune

■ Cleaning up the town sometimes meant cleaning up your own mess. Once disgraced as a magistrate, Greef Karga became the frontman for the Bounty Hunters Guild on Nevarro, assigning bounties to hunters. When Din Djarin reneged on his deal to deliver a certain asset to the Client, Karga led a group of Guild hunters in a failed attempt to recover Grogu, and Djarin shot him for his trouble (albeit knowing the former magistrate was protected by an ingot of beskar in his pocket).

The Empire took over the city, and Karga called upon Djarin to help liberate it, but it was a double-cross setup to capture the Mandalorian's friend, Grogu. After



the young one healed his injuries, Karga turned it into a triple-cross, saving Djarin and Cara Dune. He drove the Imperial forces from the town, and became its magistrate, bringing respectability and peace to Nevarro, with Dune as his marshal.

Cara Dune, the former Rebellion shock trooper-turned-mercenary,

drew the government's attention and was made an official New Republic marshal. Using her new status, she had prisoner Migs Mayfeld released into her custody in a plan to rescue Grogu. With Djarin and others, Dune stormed Moff Gideon's ship, saved Grogu, and arrested the Moff to face a New Republic Tribunal.



LEGAL NOTE



Before serving the Bounty Hunters Guild on Nevarro as Greef Karga, actor Carl Weathers starred in *Force 10 from Navarone* (1978), in which Harrison Ford (Han Solo) also starred.

Cobb Vanth

■ Sometimes it just took a single person to tip the scales between justice and lawlessness. For one tiny Tatooine town, that man was Cobb Vanth. Born a slave, he eventually became the marshal of Mos Pelgo, but was forced to flee when the Mining Collective, an extension of the criminal Red Key



LEGAL NOTE

Before appearing in *The Mandalorian* "Chapter 9: The Marshal," Cobb Vanth was first introduced in some of the interludes of Chuck Wendig's *Aftermath* trilogy.

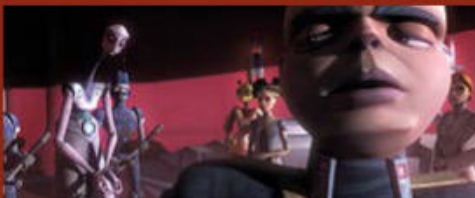
Raiders, overran the settlement just after the Empire's fall and Jabba the Hutt's death. Rescued by Jawas, who sold him Boba Fett's Mandalorian armor, Vanth drove the Mining Collective out of town.

With a krayt dragon terrorizing Mos Pelgo, Vanth offered his

armor to a visiting Din Djarin as payment for helping eliminate the monster threat. With the help of Djarin and neighboring Tusken Raiders, Vanth and the villagers slew the leviathan, bringing peace back to Mos Pelgo, and a new alliance with the Sand People.

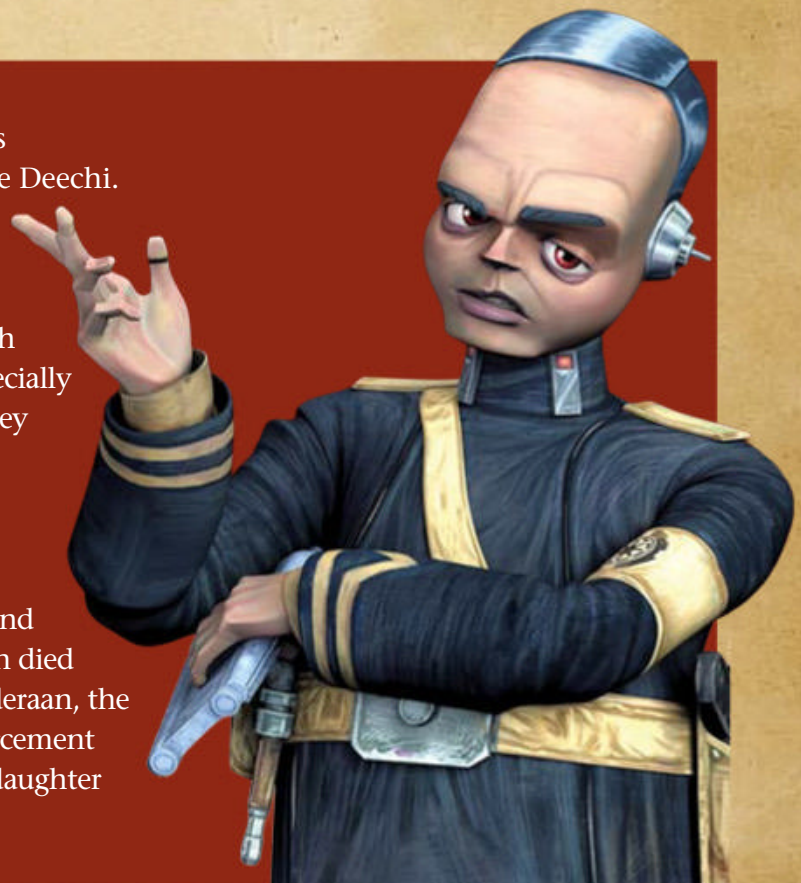
Tan Divo

■ During the waning of the Republic, crimes on the capital world were investigated by the police inspectors of the Coruscant Security Force. Lt. Tanivos Exantor Divo was a CSF detective assigned to several high-profile investigations during the Clone Wars, including the kidnapping of Baron Papanoida's daughters and



the murders of Senators Onaconda Farr and Mee Deechi.

A blunt, sometimes arrogant by-the-book officer, Divo occasionally clashed with politicians and Jedi, especially when they cracked his key cases. However, Divo's extensive monitoring of the larger criminal groups helped prevent them from gaining ground on Coruscant. While Tan died in the destruction of Alderaan, the Divo legacy in law enforcement continued through his daughter and later his grandson.



Constable Zuvio

■ He may not have wanted the job, but the reserved Kyuzo named Zuvio took his role of lawgiver at Jakku's Niima Outpost very seriously. Affirmed to the constabulary by the locals, he looked imposing in his war helmet and body armor as he patrolled the town and spaceport. Together with his deputized cousins, Streehn and Drego, and the ancient CZ-1G5, the incorruptible Zuvio maintained the peace with integrity. 🤖



LEGAL NOTE

Despite appearing heavily in pre-release marketing, Constable Zuvio appears in two blink-and-you'll-miss-him shots in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) for about seven frames of the film (about a quarter of a second!).



01 Concept art by
Brian Matyas.



Enthusiastic, expressive, and with an infectious laugh and warm smile, it turns out that

Emily Swallow is a very different person to the taciturn character she portrays in *The Mandalorian* (2019-present)—the enigmatic artisan, the Armorer.

Her face hidden beneath a horned helmet, the mysterious beskar blacksmith is an almost mystical figure in the hit Disney+ series, offering Din Djarin enigmatic advice when not forging tricked out kit and weaponry for the bounty hunter. Yet despite never showing her face, Swallow exudes an almost maternal warmth as the masked character.

“That’s actually me under the helmet in all of my episodes,” she says proudly. “Not being able to show my face was a wonderful challenge, because I had to communicate in other ways. I like to move around a lot, I’m very expressive—some call it mugging-to-camera—but as the Armorer I couldn’t use any facial expressions at all. That was a challenge because I’m not always subtle (*laughs*). I found



that all of the things that I thought would be limitations of working in the helmet were, ultimately, strangely helpful to me.”

A veteran of cult shows including *Supernatural* (2005-2020), in which she played the unstoppable Amara, *Seal Team* (2017-present), and *The Mentalist* (2013-2014), Swallow is a familiar face on television, so there is an irony in the fact that one of her best-known screen roles involves a head-to-toe costume, which she says became key to her portrayal of the stoic Mandalorian.

“The Armorer is somebody who exhibits a great deal of trust,” says Swallow. “She’s very patient, she’s not pushy, and I found it really helped me to be true to the character that I *had* to move simply and deliberately in the costume. I couldn’t be looking down constantly to make sure my path was clear, so being able to trust that I wouldn’t trip or fall became helpful to me in playing her. It was really fun for all of us who were wearing Mandalorian armor to learn the language of their movement together. It truly didn’t feel like a hindrance because the more that we did it, the more confident we became.”

The Power Of Zen

Despite appearing in only three episodes of *The Mandalorian*’s first season, the Armorer was a steady and dependable presence in all of her scenes. What aspects of the character most interested the actor?

“I wanted to show her authority, and that she had a great deal of confidence,” Swallow explains. “And I wanted her to display a great deal of ease in showing it. She didn’t strike me as being aggressive. In fact, one of the things that I remember most about

Fully Armed & Operational

Actor Emily Swallow talks exclusively to *Star Wars Insider* about the Zen-like inner strength of the Armorer, and how not tripping up on set helped her get into character.

WORDS: PAT JANKIEWICZ

“My brother and I grew up loving *Star Wars*. We just loved it. I wanted to be Princess Leia.”



02



02 The Armorer (Emily Swallow) forging beskar in her Nevarro workshop.

03 Director Deborah Chow (right) with Emily Swallow as the Armorer on the set of *The Mandalorian* Chapter 3, “The Sin.”

▶ the audition is that they described the Armorer as being ‘very Zen-like.’ That was such a gift. It can be a trap for an actor if you’re told that you’re playing a character with a lot of power, as you tend to play it big because you think you have to show it—‘I HAVE SO

MUCH POWER!’” Swallow bellows in demonstration. “But the audience sees what you’ve done and thinks, ‘That person is not very powerful at all!’ If you’re that powerful and in authority, there’s no reason to push it. People just know.

“I’m very proud to be the Armorer,” Swallow continues. “She is so supportive of the people around her, which is such an admirable trait. It makes me want to be more like her. You really find the joy in being able to play somebody like that.”

Talking of supportive people, Swallow has “a huge respect for executive producers Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni. Jon wanted to give *The Mandalorian* a classic *Star Wars* feel, which I love,” says Swallow. “And thank goodness for Dave Filoni, who directed the pilot, because he knows everything there is to know about *Star Wars*. Deborah Chow (who directed Swallow in Chapter 3, ‘The Sin’) was great and made a big impression on me. Taika Waititi (the director of Chapter 8, ‘Redemption’) was so wild and so much fun, I had a blast! I am so lucky that I got to work with them!

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"Deborah actually wound up influencing what I did as the Armorer, and I didn't even realize it at the time," Swallow continues. "She was such a great and graceful presence on set—so confident, but so gentle—that I actually wound up borrowing some of that energy from her and putting it into the Armorer. She truly impressed me."

04 The Armorer (Swallow) sets Din Djarin (Pedro Pascal) on a new path, in Chapter 8, "Redemption."



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The Swallow Saga

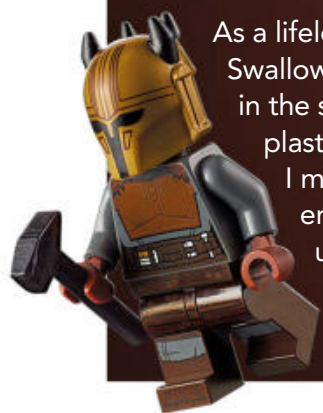
"My brother and I grew up loving *Star Wars*," the actor reminisces. "We just *loved* it. I wanted to be Princess Leia. I really thought we were true fans, but I've done some comic-book conventions since making the show and have met some *giant* fans. Women and girls have come up to me to tell me how much they love the Armorer. I'm always especially excited to meet tiny Armorerers, little girls dressed like me! Oh, that just makes my heart swell!"

Swallow grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. Despite her later success, in her younger years a career in entertainment felt light years away. "As a kid I was always making up stories. I wanted to be an actor, but I didn't personally know any people who did that for a living, so it wasn't something I felt was within my

grasp." Instead, she started singing in a church choir. "I also did musicals and plays at school. When I went to college, I continued to perform—everything from Shakespeare (she won a Falstaff Award for Best Female Performer when she played Kate in *The Taming Of The Shrew*) to John Patrick Stanley—but I also majored in Middle Eastern Studies and Foreign Affairs."

With life in Hollywood a seemingly impossible dream, Swallow planned instead on going into the Foreign Service. "I studied at the University of Virginia, but all through college I split my time between my major and the drama department. I had a wonderful acting coach, Richard Warner, who told me, 'This is something that you have a gift for.' That is when I decided to become an actor, and I still consult with Richard on some roles. I have ▶

THE ARMORER HAS IT FIGURED



As a lifelong *Star Wars* fan, one of Emily Swallow's great joys in becoming a character in the saga has been being immortalized in plastic. "To be a *Star Wars* action figure? I mean, come on—it's so cool!" she enthuses. "My inner six year old jumps up and down with joy every time I get to sign one of those at comic-book conventions."

In addition to three Hasbro action figures (so far), the Armorer also has her own Funko Pop and a LEGO® minifigure. "I especially love the Hot Toys figure that has interchangeable hands and tools, so she can hold different things," says Swallow. "I like to think that's such a badass answer to Barbie, with her interchangeable high-heel shoes!"





▶ been continuously blessed with opportunities that have been really fun, and a lot of bizarre opportunities that have also always been fun for me as well. Doors kept opening so I kept walking through them!!”

Those doors eventually led to *The Mandalorian*, which began inauspiciously for Swallow. “It was just a random audition, you know? I do a hundred of ‘em. Some things are a really big deal, and some are just things that I don’t really know what they are, and this was one of those things where I wasn’t quite sure what it was.

“I knew it had *something* to do with *Star Wars*, but they were very mysterious about it and there was no one in the room working on the show itself, except for the casting director,” she says. “I knew I was auditioning for a masked character who was the leader of a group of people in hiding, but the scenes that I read had no context whatsoever.”

The casting associate during Swallow’s audition was Jason B.



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Stamey, who made a valuable suggestion that helped her form the character. “One of the things he suggested was that I do a take with a British accent, because they had mostly been seeing Brits in their fifties and sixties for the role. I’m not quite sure how I wound up in that room, but I’m sure glad I did!” Swallow laughs.

During production, Swallow was present when a special guest arrived on set.

05 Emily Swallow minus her Armorer helmet during a break in filming.

06 The Armorer (Swallow) showed her mettle against a squad of stormtroopers in Chapter 8.

“I was there the day that George Lucas came down to celebrate Jon Favreau’s birthday,” Swallow remembers with a smile. “I was actually on set when he started regaling us with all of these stories about making the original *Star Wars*, and it was mind-blowing to hear how, over 40 years ago and against all odds, he got that movie made even though a lot of people thought it was a ridiculous idea! And now, all these years later, here he is, watching people come together who still love his stories, and want to make new *Star Wars*. I mean, how must that feel to him?”

For Swallow, her *Star Wars* experience was over before audiences had even heard of the Armorer. “All of my work on the show was completed before there was an announcement of when it was coming out, so there was no pressure on set at all,” Swallow exclaims. “No hype about it whatsoever. I could do my work the way I normally do, without any nervousness over working on something as big as *Star Wars*. After that, I just sat back and watched everyone go nuts over a show I’d already done. That was the coolest part.” 🌟

MEETING THE MERCS

Ever since Boba Fett first burst onto cinema screens, Mandalorian cosplayers have been a vibrant part of the *Star Wars* community, and they provided a cool moment for Swallow at a special screening of an episode of *The Mandalorian*.

“The entire audience was made up of Mandalorian Mercs. Just a sea of helmets!” Swallow recalls. “At the climax of the episode, when it looks like all hope is lost for Mando and Grogu, suddenly all the Mandalorians and I come out of hiding to protect them... and the Mercs let out this huge cheer. That felt so good—my people were happy!”





One set to
give away!

Light Versus Dark

Win a pair of ARTFX+ statues from Kotobukiya!

The Jedi Knights were once the guardians of peace and justice in the galaxy, until the dark machinations of the Republic's final supreme chancellor led to an oppressive Galactic Empire, ruled over by a dreaded Sith Lord. This issue we have a pair of incredible ARTFX+ model kits from Kotobukiya to give away to one lucky reader, representing the best and worst of both sides of the Force.

Obi-Wan Kenobi, soon to undertake a new adventure on Disney+, was one of a handful of Jedi to survive the horrific purge that began with Order 66. When we first encountered the character

in *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977), he was living as a hermit on Tatooine while keeping a watchful eye over Luke Skywalker. Kotobukiya's ARTFX+ rendition of the aged Jedi captures him during this period, while the Emperor Palpatine statue recreates the imperious Sith's appearance on the second Death Star in *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* (1983), complete with throne.

ARTFX+ statues are fun-to-assemble kits that can be put together in seconds, featuring interchangeable parts for the ultimate in posability. To be in with a chance of winning the pair, just send us the correct answer to the following *Star Wars* trivia question:

What was the name of the group of statues displayed in Supreme Chancellor Palpatine's office?

- A) Two Knights of Baronii**
- B) Three Sisters of Mercii**
- C) Four Sages of Dwartii**

Send your entry marked "STATUESQUE" via email to insidercomp@titanemail.com (or by mail to the address printed on page 3) by May 4, 2022. Remember to include your mailing address. Terms and conditions are available at titan-comics.com. **May the Force be with you!**

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Great Expectations

Despite its status as a worldwide phenomenon, not everyone has seen a *Star Wars* movie. Writer and lecturer Andy Hageman, who teaches a science fiction movie class every year, offers an insight into how students from across the world respond to their first viewing of a *Star Wars* film.

WORDS: ANDY HAGEMAN
WITH THANKS TO ISMAIL HAMID, CHI PHAM,
TAM TA, AND WARSAN YUSUF.

01 Students were fascinated by the mix of animals and technology in *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977)

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he thrill of watching a *Star Wars* film for the first time is fundamental to fans of the

saga. Devouring every piece of storytelling, every new character design, every sound you hear, is an incomparable experience, quickly followed by earnest discussion post-credits, unpicking all the new elements of the galaxy far, far away that have just been revealed to you.

These memories are treasures. If children are in your life, you may have been able to relive that feeling through the joy of sharing it across generations. In my case, I teach *Star Wars* films annually as part of a science fiction film college course. My students are a mix of American and international students, most of whom are between 18 and 22 years old. Thanks to social media,

television, and other cultural channels, most of them have already been exposed to at least something of the *Star Wars* galaxy through memes and references, though of course many are already fans. However, each year a new class will inevitably contain at least two students who've never seen a *Star Wars* movie before.

This combination of different exposures to *Star Wars* makes it a vibrant topic for discussion in an academic setting and introduces some surprising perspectives. In particular, international students, connect what happens in the films to their experiences of journeying far, far from home and navigating new cultures, relationships, and values. Often, they see *Star Wars* as a socially shared story with immense power to connect and communicate. In short, these new viewers bring great expectations to the table.

Impactful Imagery

We always begin by watching *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977). When my classes meet to discuss what they thought of the film, I ask each student to consider a single visual image that stuck out for them for any reason and sketch it on the classroom whiteboards. This results in around twenty different *Star Wars* images. Then we talk about what people chose and what thoughts those images spark for different people.

The most frequent images have included the Death Star (generally exploding!), Darth Vader's mask, Princess Leia Organa (with an emphasis on her hair), and Luke Skywalker gazing at the setting suns of Tatooine. Intriguingly, the students who choose such images are those who are already *Star Wars* savvy. International students who are new to the saga have consistently drawn other





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things. This may be because they haven't internalized *Star Wars* iconography yet, or that they bring different national, cultural, or other perspectives to watching *Star Wars*. Or it could be a bit of both.

Dewbacks have been a popular choice among international students unfamiliar with the film. When asked to explain the images they've chosen, students have talked about the dewback scenes as an odd mix of animals and technology. They've also been impressed by the depth of creativity spent on realizing a creature that barely appears in the story.

The stormtroopers riding dewbacks are a break in the pattern of the Empire's reliance on technology in the movie. Some students saw this as a subtle way to show how

02 Luke Skywalker staring at the setting suns of Tatooine.

03 Migration across the galaxy was a hot topic, from nomads on Tatooine to hyperspace journeys.

04 The Death Star was another frequent topic of discussion.

05 Princess Leia Organa's hair buns are always a talking point.

desperate the Empire was to retrieve the Death Star plans. Others saw a juxtaposition with Luke Skywalker's use of the ethereal and organic Force while piloting an X-wing during the movie's climactic space battle. Most students agreed that the dewbacks demonstrate the diverse world of coexistence on the planet, and how the Empire's presence disturbed that environment.

Two other images have repeatedly been highlighted by international students: Jawas and Tusken Raiders. The conversations about these Tatooine groups have focused on migration on this desert planet and across the *Star Wars* galaxy. One first-time viewer was struck by the close proximity in which Jawas, Tusken Raiders, and white humans lived, in what clearly resembled a North African landscape. They finished the film eager to know about the history of migrations to and on Tatooine. This student wondered if some groups were indigenous, or if all had been transplanted to the world since people could move around the galaxy quite freely.

Such questions opened new points of view to longtime fans in the class. One exciting idea



that emerged was the role nomadism plays in *Star Wars*. The Jawas and Tusken live nomadically, distinct from the sedentary homestead life of moisture farmers. Both of the mobile societies on Tatooine posed threats to C-3PO, R2-D2, and Luke, yet they model a social way of life that the rebels later adopt through necessity. Students enthusiastically speculated that Luke might have been influenced by these alternate models of kinship beyond biological family and of home as a community rather than a building.

Stirring Subtitles

Another of my international students drew the scene of Han Solo's confrontation with Greedo in the Mos Eisley Cantina, including the subtitles of the bounty hunter's dialogue. *Star Wars* aficionados immediately sprang into action to bring their rookie classmates up to speed on the debate over "who shot first." The student who drew the image was curious but turned the conversation back to what the subtitles said to her.

06 Darth Vader's mask was identified as a key visual from the film.

07 The seamless multilingual skills of Han Solo impressed students.

08 The ability of numerous *Star Wars* species to communicate fluently in spite of language barriers pointed to the prospect of future unity, one student suggested.

As someone who had learned English as a second language and was attending college in a foreign country, this student was deeply moved by the multilingual abilities of characters in the film. She noted that part of Han Solo's appeal was

the natural way in which he understood people talking to him in a range of languages, from Greedo's Rodian to Chewbacca's Shyriiwook. Her classmates were in turn moved by this student's strong identification with functioning across languages and the cross-cultural understanding that comes with being multilingual.

Another student, Tam, from Vietnam, highlighted the conversations between Han Solo and Jabba the Hutt as free from language barriers. She thought that even though *A New Hope* is about war, the multilingual abilities of people outside the Empire, especially people at the margins of the galaxy, pointed to the prospect of their unity and connection, at least to oppose the Empire. Fluency in multiple languages and cultures, from her point of view, is an act of rebellion that speaks hopefully to those whose journeys take them far from home.

One saga buff linked this to the scene in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) when Rey and Finn meet Han Solo and Chewbacca. Finn expressed

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► shock that Rey could understand Chewbacca, who he referred to as “that thing,” whereupon Han Solo warned the former stormtrooper that Chewie could understand whatever he said so he’d better watch his words. Finn, raised as a cog in the First Order machine, was not trained in linguistics, much less empathy. Rey’s life amidst the diversity of Jakku naturally included being multilingual. In these moments, *Star Wars* can help us to see each other more deeply and aspire to more sophisticated language abilities and appreciation.

I typically follow *A New Hope* by teaching *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016). New initiates to the *Star Wars* galaxy can grasp the story continuity, and it’s a great way to compare the original film with a much more recent one.

One of my new apprentices to *Star Wars* was Ismail, from the Maldives. He recounted his experience of first seeing Scarif on screen:

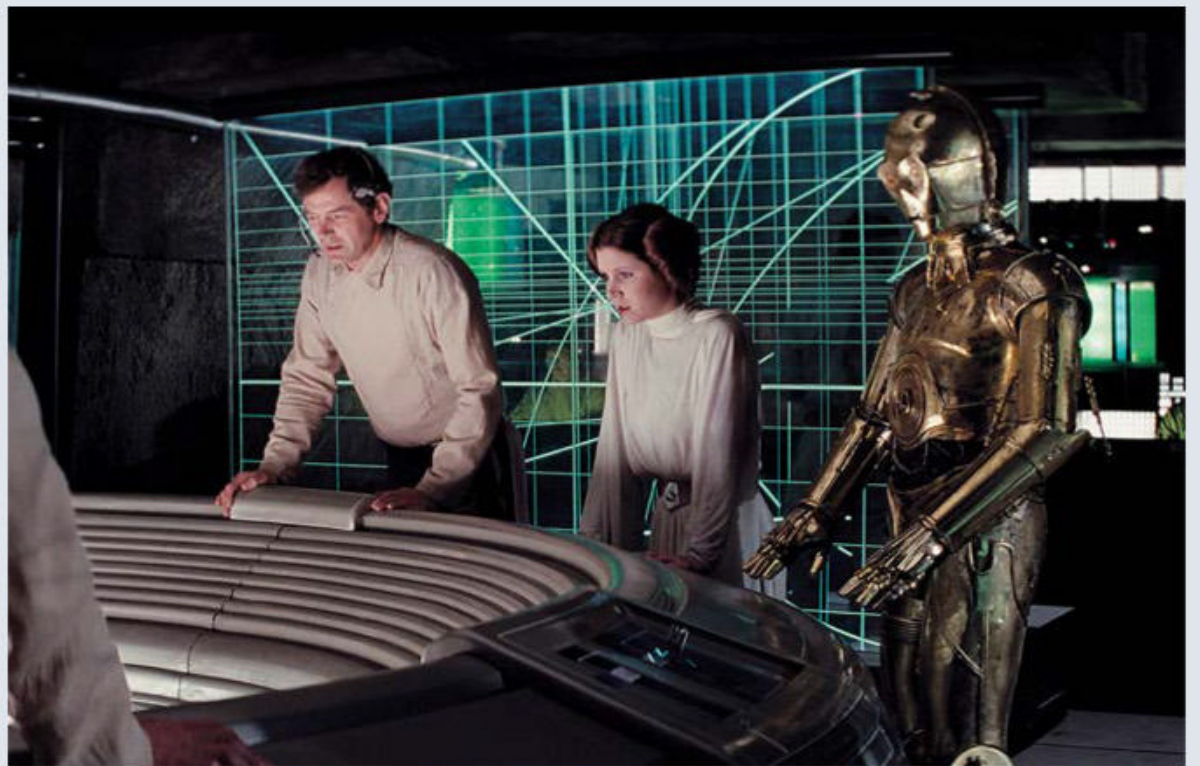
“When I was watching *Rogue One*, I quickly recognized (as any Maldivian would) the ultra-white sandy beaches and unique greenery,” Ismail said. “Although the shape of the islands were heavily modified, it was obvious to me I was looking at the Maldives. I remember feeling quite proud that my country was in a *Star Wars* movie, and also thinking about how small the world is. There I was, in a small liberal arts college in a small town in America, looking at my home country 5,000 miles away, portrayed as a planet in a galaxy far, far away.”

Ismail’s comments show the productivity of engaging with *Star Wars* internationally. Great distances and local places are as fundamental to life on Earth as they are in that far distant galaxy. Exploring these stories together expands our points of view. As Zorii Bliss said to Poe Dameron, “They win by making you think you’re alone.” One true potential of these films, then, is realized when they move us to discover what brings us together.

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Pan-galactic Perspectives

All of the international students who weighed in on *Star Wars* attributed some of their expectations to American television. Watching popular shows is a common form of preparing for life in another country and figuring out how to fit in there. For students traveling to study in the U.S. in recent years these have included *The Big Bang Theory* (2007-2019), *Friends* (1994-2004), and *How I Met Your Mother* (2005-2014)—shows which referenced *Star Wars* regularly.

Chi, from Vietnam, remarked, “My first introduction to *Star Wars* was when I started watching *How*

09 Following a viewing of *A New Hope*, students were shown *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016)

10 The exercise encouraged students to compare the newer movie with the original film.



I Met Your Mother. I watched all of the seasons several times because it was my way of learning English, practicing my speaking skills and pronunciation. The main characters were big *Star Wars* fans with lots of traditions and bonding experiences with movie marathons, comic-cons, Halloween

- 11 *Rogue One* (2016) used the Maldives as a location for Scarif.
- 12 A Maldives-born student was proud to recognize his home in a *Star Wars* movie.



11

costumes, and more. That's why I had this idea that I needed to watch *Star Wars* to fit in when going to college in the U.S."

International students also make historical connections, as they expect *Star Wars* to teach them about American culture. Tam, from Vietnam, found a link to the bicentennial anniversary of the American Revolution in the original film's release date of 1977. At the same time, she noted how this was only a few years after the U.S. ended military operations in her home country. So, the story of two embattled powers was complicated in her assessment of these two contexts that converged in the late 1970s. Chi, also from Vietnam, noted that American films weren't widely available, much less shown in theatres, in her country until the 1990s or early 2000s.

Warsan, from Somalia, tuned into the relationships droids have

with humans and other organic beings in *Star Wars*. Her reactions added the history of slavery and racism to the class discussion of how droids are treated in *Star Wars* and in science fiction more broadly. This resulted in the student appreciating the subtle layers that make *Star Wars* so compelling.

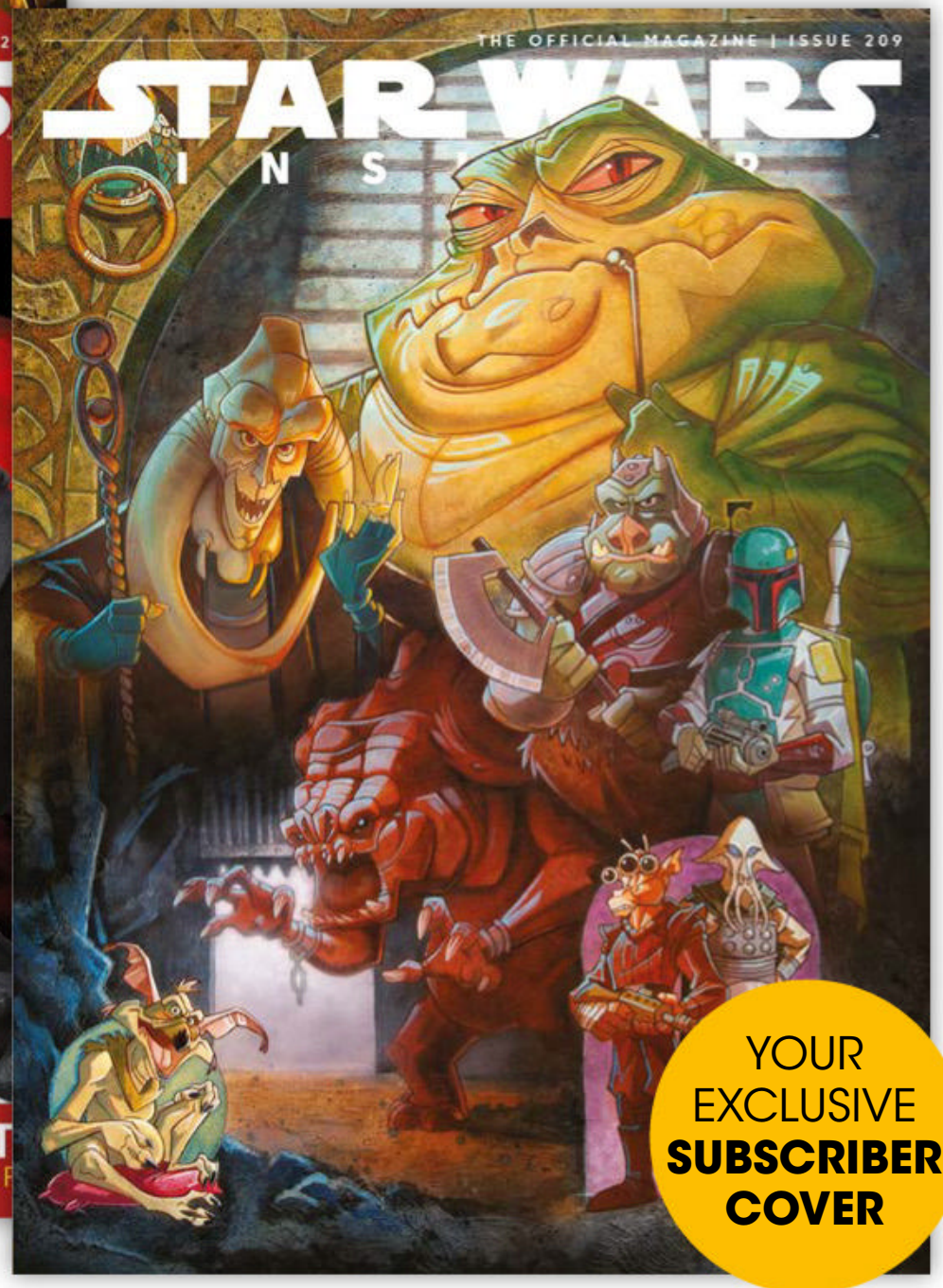
When international students share expectations and experiences like this with American students, *Star Wars* helps build bridges. Domestic students become more aware of the challenges in journeying to a campus far, far away and adapting to cultures and languages in order to learn and train. International students have a means to articulate these challenges through the common ground of *Star Wars* and appreciate the empathy this creates.

Ultimately, this suggests that *Star Wars* is not a story about conflict but about drawing people together. 🌌

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MAUL

FROM SITH LORD TO CRIME LORD

Star Wars Insider explores how a combination of bad luck, bad timing, and bad decisions made the tattooed dark-sider the Zabrak he was.

WORDS: MEGAN CROUSE

M

aul was trained to kill, his use of the Force always tending towards the easy aggression of the dark side. Yet

some of the emotions that drove him should be quite familiar to us: fear, anger, and regret are just as potent motivators in our everyday lives as they are in a galaxy far, far away.

Maul might have appeared to be a straightforward villain, known as much for his dramatic appearance as for his habit of returning from the dead long after our heroes thought he was gone for good, but his storied life is an exploration of the consequences of bad luck, bad choices, and the skewed perspective of a villain who saw himself as the hero of his own story. Perhaps it is time to reassess the life of Maul with a degree of empathy he would no doubt never have afforded us?

The Unchosen Chosen One

As the apprentice in the two-person Sith hierarchy dictated by the ancient Rule of Two, Maul stood at the head of a line of dark-side legacy. Most apprentices grew up to attempt to (or succeed in) killing their masters, and Maul's life had been a contest from the very start, with Mother Talzin of the Nightsisters and Palpatine negotiating over the boy's fate in trials that left him disconnected from his blood family.

Once Palpatine took him on as his apprentice, the Sith Lord trained the boy to despise the Jedi. But alongside that hate, a jealousy formed and festered: if the Jedi made it their business to locate and adopt Force-sensitive children into their creed, why hadn't they sought him out? Maul's justification for this—surely to protect his own, mighty ego—was that he must therefore be meant for a grander purpose. As

Palpatine's apprentice, his status as a Sith embodied that thought, and became his sole reason for being.

During the invasion of Naboo, Maul was Palpatine's blunt instrument, a wall erected to deter Jedi Knights Qui-Gon Jinn and his Padawan, Obi-Wan Kenobi. The result was Maul's apparent death, but his "demise" in turn did feed a grand purpose: Kenobi became master to Anakin Skywalker, a boy destined to fall to the dark side and push the galaxy towards dominion under the Sith. Maul's assessment had been correct, from a certain point of view.

To look at these events from Maul's perspective, however, we can see this was his chance to shine that went terribly wrong. Qui-Gon Jinn was the first Jedi Master he had ever fought against, and Kenobi only the second apprentice. In Maul's fervor to prove himself, he lost focus on the task at hand—the capture of



CRIMSON FATE

Even at his highest point, Maul didn't have what he really needed: a family structure that wasn't put in place to manipulate and use him. Instead, he tried to build an empire that would protect and outlive him. Maul's two high points were both related to the

underworld: first the takeover of Mandalore that put him in charge of both the planet and many of the galaxy's gangs, and his stint as leader of Crimson Dawn. On Mandalore, Maul had a throne and people who would enact his plans. Driven by fear himself, he drove others with the fear of displeasing him.



► Queen Padmé Amidala. Instead, he relentlessly pursued the Jedi because he felt it was his destiny to do so, thus paving the way for Anakin, the real Chosen One.

After his near-death failure against Kenobi, Maul sought out a family of his own, the family he had never had. Yet his spite and anger, along with his Sith training, kept him from achieving this goal too. Maul only knew how to exist using the tools that Sidious had equipped him with, making his relationship with his own apprentice (and brother), Savage Opress, cold and violent. When Savage argued that

"There is no need for dominance between us," Maul shut him down and pushed him back into the "apprentice" role Maul was used to occupying himself.

During the early years of the Clone Wars, Maul was constantly trying to regain the attention of Darth Sidious and elicit the Sith Lord's good graces by demonstrating both competence and cruelty. Everything he did was bait for someone else, including commandeering Mandalore's politics and killing its ruler in order to draw out Kenobi. In Maul's game of galactic chess, he was always

01 Maul and Obi-Wan Kenobi fought in several rematches during the Clone Wars.

02 Maul with his brother Savage Opress.

trying to move others around the board, but he was never a master of Palpatine's skill, and instead his efforts were more akin to the actions of a child crying for attention.

Some of those cries had terrible consequences: Maul cruelly killed Satine Kryze just to goad Kenobi. While Maul argued that he could pit his gangs against Satine's "weak government" in the political arena, he was also still showing that he could only think within the confines of the small box Palpatine had constructed around him. Maul was no tactician; just a killer. And he was immature, always thinking of himself ("I will make you share my pain," he once said to Kenobi). As such, he simply couldn't comprehend the emotional bond between Kenobi and Satine, much less empathize with it. For Maul, their relationship was framed only as a tactical pawn to get him what he needed.

Eventually, Palpatine did respond to Maul's unspoken appeal, but still wouldn't give Maul the attention he longed for. Instead of welcoming his old apprentice back into the fold, Palpatine personally slapped both Maul and Savage down. Maul finally understood all hope of regaining his place among the Sith was lost.





03



Usurping the Darksaber

However, Maul was not willing to disappear. His ego and self-importance would not allow it, his vision of a grand purpose still central to his sense of self. He soon played a pivotal role in a conflict he would never have expected to have a stake in as a child: the Mandalorian civil war.

Maul didn't have any true claim to the Darksaber that gave him the crown of Mandalore—it was built by a Mandalorian Jedi, not a Sith—but his possession of the weapon allowed him to prove to all what an important figure he should be. Eventually,

03 Duchess Satine Kryze was just one victim of Maul's quest for power.

04 Alliances, such as the one with Pre Vizsla, were mere stepping stones to Maul.

05 Maul soon turned on Vizsla when the time came to secure the throne of Mandalore.

this belief in his own heroic destiny backfired once again.

Maul believed Obi-Wan Kenobi would eventually come to confront him on Mandalore. After all, from Maul's perspective, they were fated enemies who had shaped each other's destinies.

Yet as the siege of the planet progressed Kenobi was otherwise occupied, dealing with a more important chaos agent in Anakin Skywalker—the Chosen One had begun to turn the wheels of the prophecy. Instead, Skywalker's former apprentice, Ahsoka Tano, was the one who faced Maul on Mandalore (with the help of

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As the apprentice in the two-person Sith hierarchy dictated by the ancient Rule of Two, Maul stood at the head of a line of dark-side legacy.

Bo-Katan Kryze, who had recognized her error in assisting Maul's rise to power on her homeworld), ending his reign. Once again Maul found himself cast onto the sidelines.

In a twist of fate, following Palpatine's enactment of Order 66 Tano and Maul were forced to work together to survive against clone troopers suddenly intent on ending both their lives. If Maul hadn't been captured by Ahsoka, he wouldn't have been in the right place to use his powers to bring down the ship where she was struggling to defend herself against an entire crew of clones. Maul was technically helping Tano, but



LOWEST EBB

Half-dead, struggling to keep his thoughts in order, and raging against the Force, Maul's low point on the junkyard world Lotho Minor marked his journey beginning again after his defeat on Naboo. All he had left to him was the the dark side. His mantras—the Sith code and his own interpretations of it—reveal someone with deep anger, but also deep sadness. He felt unable to control even his own body, which he had cobbled together from flotsam and junk. Its flailing spider legs were stable enough for him to walk, but showed that he had become a chaotic, animalistic man after being abandoned by the people who had only used him to further their own gains.



- she made a point of affixing no emotional component to the partnership. Like Palpatine before her, Ahsoka had pointed Maul at a target like a weapon, and it played directly to his skillset. After the ship went down, Maul disappeared. Ahsoka went on to become a key part of the rebellion against the Empire, while Maul seemed lost to obscurity. The Jedi never to be knighted by her own master found her own

06 Maul and Savage Opress were no match for the power of Darth Sidious.

07 In later years, Maul found a potential apprentice of his own in Ezra Bridger.

identity as a master to others. Maul's path was to become a dark reflection of her journey.

Being the boss of Crimson Dawn would not have been among Maul's aspirations either, but through it he served as a catalyst in the destiny of others: Qi'ra, who would become one of his high-ranking lieutenants in the criminal gang before taking control of it; Enfys Nest, an early rebellion fighter before the formation of the Alliance to Restore the Republic; and a space smuggler named Han Solo. It can be argued that Maul's truest destiny was to play a significant if unrecognized part in the journey of such important individuals, but this would have been a bitter pill for him to swallow.

From his very early life, Maul had believed in the appearance of a Chosen One.



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Strange Mercy

From his very early life, Maul had believed in the appearance of a Chosen One. In fact, he was a believer before anyone else even knew about the prophecy. Although twisted, he had more faith in Anakin than the Jedi did.

That's why his ultimate fate, his jagged-edged alliance with Ezra Bridger, and his eventual death at Obi-Wan Kenobi's hands, was so poetic. Maul finally came face-to-face with his old enemy in the stark landscape of Tatooine. After coups and jails and witches, Maul's final moments took place in the simplest of places: by a campfire in the desert. In many ways, this wasn't even a duel of flashing lightsaber blades, but a conflict of personalities—Maul's clenched teeth and twitching eyes pitted against Kenobi's serenity.

In confronting Kenobi, Maul came close to disrupting a story bigger than even he knew. Maul sensed that something important pivoted around the boy Kenobi was watching over, and even as he drew his final breath, Maul was still focused on the prophecy. When Kenobi told him the boy was the Chosen One, his words offered some respite to the long-suffering Maul. After all, it meant Maul's predictions of the future had been accurate—he'd seen Order 66 coming, he'd seen the Chosen

08 Obsessed with thoughts of vengeance, Maul searched the deserts of Tatooine for Obi-Wan Kenobi.

09 A final duel between the Jedi and the former Sith was over almost as soon as it had begun.

10 Maul's life was a rollercoaster of highs and lows, his aspirations forever being undermined by his personal demons.

One coming. "He will avenge us," Maul whispered, drawing hope from an idea that Luke Skywalker would fulfill the machinations of the Sith and, finally, prove his struggles had not been in vain. Even with his dying words, Maul was unable to move on from his bitterness or the mistakes of his past.

Maul was the prophecy's most zealous adherent, and yet,

everything he did depended on his misunderstanding of it; reading from the source, believing in it, yet interpreting the situation entirely incorrectly. Not only was Maul not a hero, but he was also a study in how villains can show a dark side of perseverance, continuing to drive themselves with obsessions and aspirations that won't ever reward them. 🙄



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Spice: Just Say No!

Spice is ubiquitous in *Star Wars*, mentioned in the opening minutes of *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977) and appearing in all of the saga's iterations, from movies and television shows to books and comics. *Insider* explores how the substance affected the lives of our heroes, and the galaxy as a whole.

WORDS: MELISSA T. MILLER



Medical advancements often require breakthroughs in both technology and pain relief, some of which are developed in a laboratory while others come from the natural world. With thousands of planets explored in *Star Wars*, the variety of natural substances with healing properties would be immense, making limb replacements, burn recovery, and

many other feats possible. As in our galaxy, however, the drive towards self-destruction is at least as strong as the quest to do good.

Spice was a drug that, like many here on Earth, could be used for healing but was also often abused. The *Star Wars* saga takes place in a tumultuous time for the galaxy with multiple warring governments exchanging power over the entire expanse of known space. This allowed for little oversight over criminals such as gangsters,

smugglers, and slave-owners—the primary profiteers in the spice trade.

What Is Spice?

Most mentions of spice in *Star Wars* merely allude to its drug-like qualities without getting into specifics. The lounges on Oba Diah were filled with red smoke and beautiful Twi'lek women, but gave no real clue as to how the drug was ingested. The few times spice was shown was as a colorful powder. Likewise, the mines on Kessel were



colorful places, with orange smoke emanating from bubbling pools of liquid and vents in the rock. Slaves used pickaxes to chip away at the walls to collect their haul. This is reminiscent of sulfur here on Earth, which is harvested from cracks and smells of rotten eggs. It vents as a yellow smoke that can be channeled and mined, often by overworked and underpaid people in dangerous volcanic environments.

In *Star Wars*, spice was utilized both for healing and as a destructive

drug, dependent on the level of its refinement, dosage, and medical oversight. It is true that different versions of a substance can have these variant effects, with some providing medical benefits and others being dangerous or even poisonous. Opioids on Earth are all chemically related, with the extreme form, heroin, being illegal. But there are others that are commonly prescribed, like codeine and morphine, which can still be addictive and easily misused. Spice

in its narcotic form was most likely addictive and harmful to the mental and physical health of those who used it.

Timeline

Spice is referenced in all eras and was probably around long before galactic governmental regulations. It was illegal by the Age of the Republic, but smuggling was still rampant.

Well-known pirate Hondo Ohnaka only accepted payments ►

01 The spice mines of Kessel, as depicted in concept art by Jon McCoy for *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018).

- ▶ in spice, a grift since he could then sell it for twice the price on the black market. Legitimate groups and governments also made deals with him, suggesting that they kept it on hand for medical purposes. Presumably, it was worth doing business with Ohnaka even in the knowledge that the spice was likely used illicitly by his buyers.

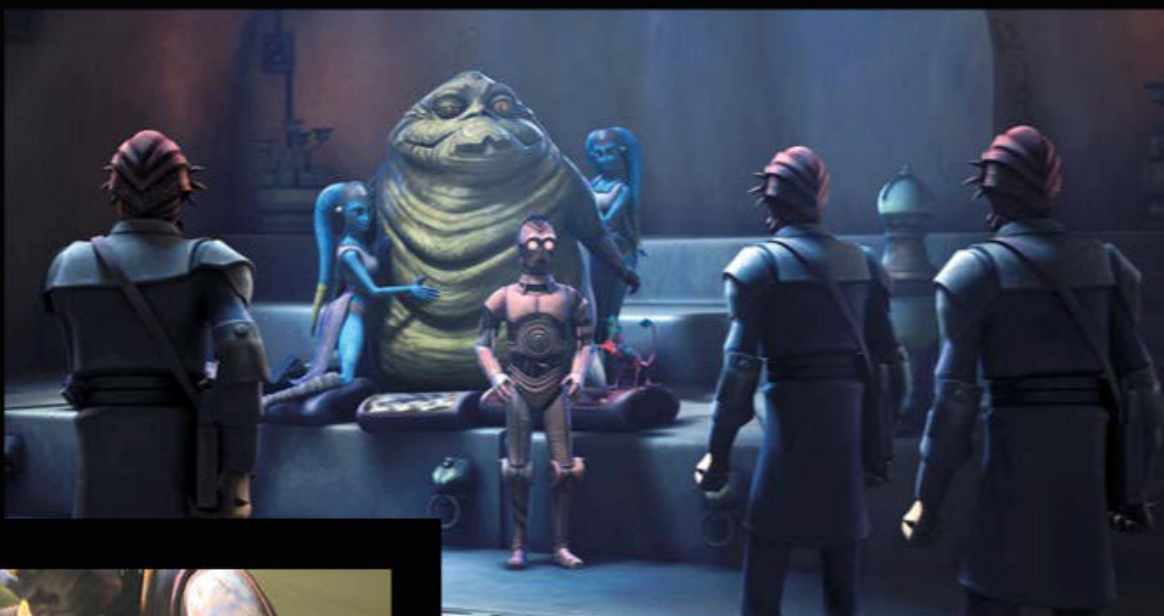
During the Clone Wars, the former Sith Lord Maul established the Shadow Collective to dominate criminal activity throughout the galaxy, including spice running. Large organizations like Black Sun, the Hutts, Mandalore's Death Watch, the Nightbrothers, and the Pyke Syndicate joined forces in this shaky alliance. In the Imperial era, the Mining Guild protected operations on Kessel, where most of the galaxy's spice was harvested, and the crime syndicates found legitimacy and increased power.

After the collapse of the Empire, the situation devolved into a bloody free for all. The Spice Runners of Kijimi joined the

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02 Pirate Hondo Ohnaka only accepted payment in spice.

03 The Hutts employed smugglers to traffic spice all across the galaxy.

04 A Kessel overseer examining a crate of Sansanna spice.

fray, first stealing cargo shipments from smugglers leaving Kessel and later working directly with the mines to dominate the transport trade. Without Imperial Mining Guild protection and no official government on Kijimi, the group was able to stake a large claim. This attracted the attention of the New Republic, but the government only had a limited capacity to effectively control the spice trade as they focused on chasing down the last remnants of the Empire.

The Resistance may have been too busy surviving to worry about galactic plans beyond fighting the First Order. Gangsters and cartels had generations worth of experience working in the shadows and, even during the time of the First Order, smuggling and other illegal activity persisted. Hondo Ohnaka began to reclaim a portion of the profits and started a business, Ohnaka Transport

Solutions, but this seemingly legitimate company was still a front for a smuggling operation on the planet of Batuu. The spice trade was probably one of the oldest businesses in the galaxy and therefore unlikely to ever be fully eradicated.

Smuggling

Illegal transport was rampant in the *Star Wars* galaxy, everything from people to stolen goods to animals, perhaps also food or plants that were restricted in certain systems. Along with spice, there were other illegal drugs, like guilea from the planet Cerea. Smugglers found ways around every new restriction put in place by the powers that be. Stricter enforcement lead to novel avenues of smuggling. When the Bad Batch helped Cid steal crates of spice,



they used old mining tunnels and rail carts. The citizen reporting Finn and Rose's ship moments after they illegally land on the beach in Canto Bight had perhaps seen illegal goods being traded in that manner before.

Smuggling of all sorts of items is widespread in our galaxy as well. Animals are taken out of the wild and sold as pets. Fake goods are sold for brand prices. Even legal commodities like alcohol are illegally transported over borders in order to avoid paying taxes. Bootlegging and rum-running reached a peak during the U.S. prohibition era but had begun long before and continues even today. The high-octane sport of stock-car racing is rooted in the

05 Han Solo smuggled spice for Jabba the Hutt before joining the Rebellion.

06 The Pyke Syndicate was deeply involved in the spice trade, with refineries on their home world Oba Diah.

illegal transport of alcohol, with smugglers modifying normal-looking cars to drive faster and hold more cargo. Many early NASCAR champions were former moonshine runners. Was the same true for podracers and daredevil pilots of the galaxy far, far away?

Out of Character

Not everyone involved in the criminal enterprise of spice was a criminal at heart, and some future heroes lived their lives in the underworld. In fact, everyone's favorite scoundrel, Han Solo, may have become a hero as a direct result of his history of smuggling. While working for Jabba the Hutt, the *Millennium Falcon* was boarded, and Solo was forced to

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“Many things can be made out of spice, and they’re not all good.”

Ahsoka Tano

dump his cargo. He was desperate for a way out from the lethal gangster's debt and accepted Obi-Wan Kenobi's charter to Alderaan. Though he and Chewbacca returned to a life of smuggling during the New Republic era, they logged years and millions of parsecs as heroes of the Rebel Alliance.

SPICE WORLDS

Spice was found throughout the galaxy, but mostly on Kessel. The planet's northern hemisphere was given over to mining, while those living in the southern hemisphere turned a profit and a blind eye to the atrocities. Kessel's mines also yielded coaxium, a fuel used for hyperspace travel.

The nearby planet Oba Diah, the home world of the Pyke Syndicate, was where the majority of spice was processed into its illegal, drug-like form. When Pykes traveled to Kessel, they had to wear protective gear due to its lethal atmospheric differences from Oba Diah.

06



KNOW THE LINGO

SPICE:

Refers to a few illicit substances mined throughout the galaxy. Can also refer to medicinal herbs or salt, and flavorings for food and drinks.

SPICE RUNNER:

Someone involved in the illegal smuggling of spice. "Spice Runner" is also the name of an alcoholic cider drink locally made and served at Oga's Cantina on Batuu.

SPICE RUNNERS OF KIJIMI:

A group of outlaws based on the planet Kijimi who claimed a large portion of the spice trade during the era of the New Republic.

SPICE-HOUND:

Derogatory name for someone addicted to spice.

- A generation later, the Resistance's best pilot also had a criminal past. Poe Dameron spent five years with the Spice Runners of Kijimi. What started as an act of teenage rebellion

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honed his piloting skills and sense of adventure. His ultimate decision not to join Zorii Bliss in taking over the operation was the first step of his redemption, leading him home to Yavin 4 and ultimately into Leia's service. Poe couldn't outrun his past forever, but his association with the spicerunners and their droidsmith Babu Frik was a crucial link in the Resistance's victory over the First Order.

During the Clone Wars, the Martez sisters Rafa and Trace

07 Poe Dameron had links to the Spice Runners of Kijimi.

08 The ethics of spice smuggling caused conflict between Ahsoka Tano and the Martez sisters.



08

befriended Ahsoka Tano just after she left the Jedi Order and just in time to involve her in their spice running antics. Rafa accepted a job to deliver spice from the mines of Kessel to the refinery on Oba Diah, recruiting Trace to use her ship, the *Silver Angel*, in the errand. Though the sisters naively believed the shipment to be medicinal and therefore legal, Tano was suspicious. During an argument about the ethics of spice running, Trace feared her beloved ship might be captured and jettisoned the cargo while still in hyperspace. When the women tried to fool the Pykes by delivering



empty crates with the help of a Jedi mind trick, they were imprisoned on Oba Diah and tortured for information. They eventually escaped and Ahsoka planted bombs throughout the refinery to disrupt the illegal refinement of spice into a drug. Later, the Martez sisters helped the nascent Rebellion in the battle against Imperial tyranny and it could be that their time with Ahsoka Tano steered them back towards legitimacy. Tano's involvement in the operation also led to the discovery of the Shadow Collective's dealings in the spice trade and the eventual Siege of Mandalore to put an end to it.

09 The vile landscape surrounding Kessel's infamous mines.

10 Wookiee and human slaves, along with droids, staged a revolt on Kessel during a daring raid by Han Solo and his criminal associates.

11 Quay Tolsite represented the Pyke Syndicate on Kessel.

“We’ll be sent to the spice mines of Kessel or smashed into who knows what!”

C-3PO, to R2-D2

Slave Labor

It is impossible to ignore the spice trade's connection to the unforgiveable crime of slavery. The Martez sisters believed the government would never allow such horrors—an assumption likely mirrored by many throughout the galaxy who were never confronted with evidence to the contrary. But neither the Republic nor the New Republic's reach ever seemed to make it all the way to the spice mines of Kessel and other Outer Rim Territories.

Han Solo, however, did know that slaves were used in mining spice, having seen them during his brief time on Kessel to steal coaxium. The Pyke Syndicate representative, Quay Tolsite, discussed the reconditioning protocols for slaves with Qi'ra when she presented a shackled Han and

Chewbacca during a heist to steal coaxium. Droids were also slaves, fitted with restraining bolts.

Though the *Millennium Falcon* crew's visit to Kessel led to a mass release of slaves, both humanoid and droid, the isolation of the mines and the planet itself meant it was unlikely many actually gained their freedom that day. That Han and Chewbacca, who already had first-hand knowledge of a life in chains, would run spice after witnessing these atrocities suggests that the only options they had were bad ones.

Despite the fact that spice was a valuable medicine, the huge criminal enterprises that arose out of its less savory uses could be considered enough to outweigh the good it did. Variety may be the spice of life, but in *Star Wars* it inevitably leads down the wrong path. 🙄



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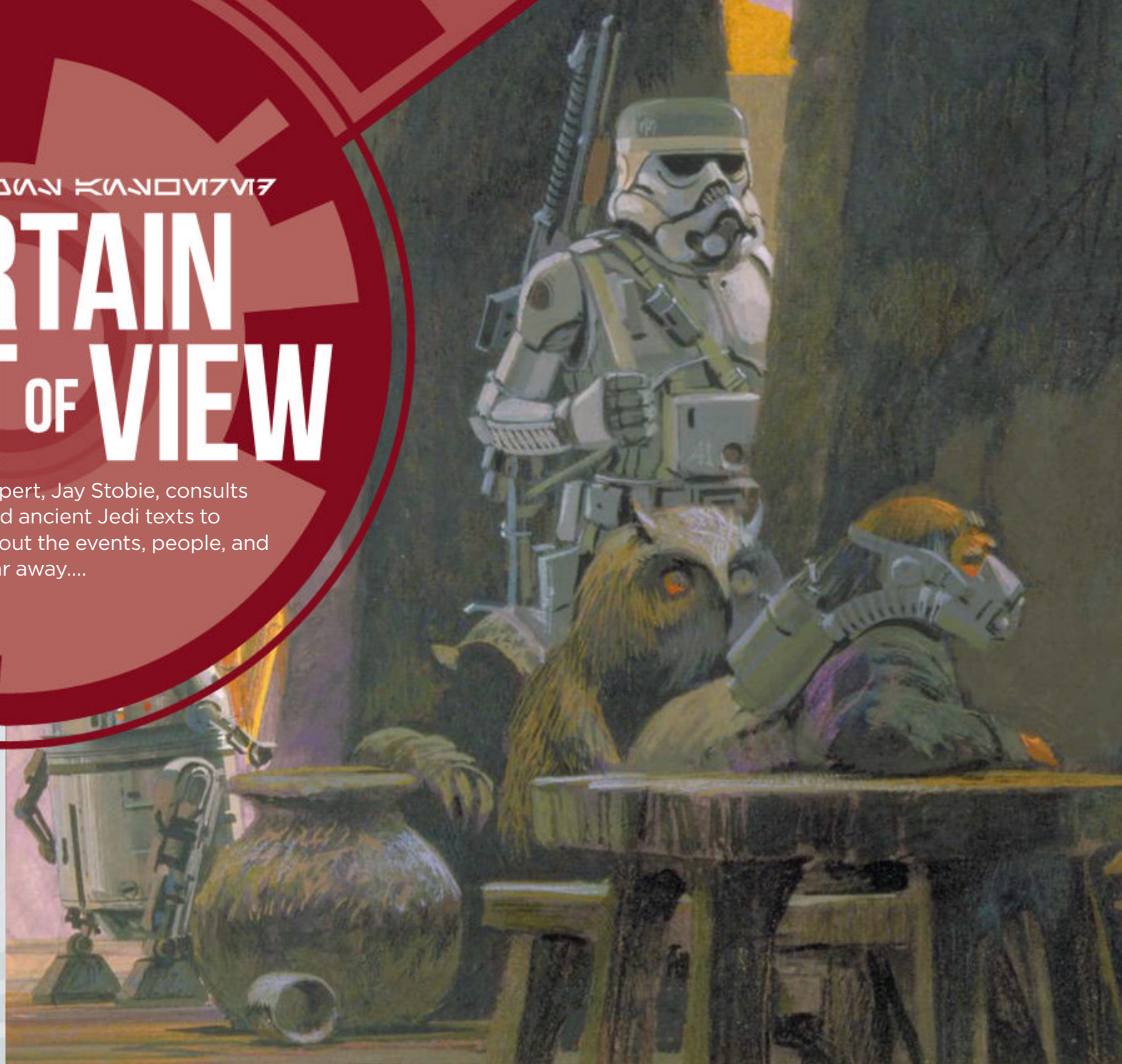
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YΔΔ7 ΓΟΜΝΙΔΩΝ ΚΑΝΟΜ7Μ7

A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

Our resident *Star Wars* expert, Jay Stobie, consults his library of holocrons and ancient Jedi texts to answer your questions about the events, people, and places of the galaxy far, far away....



"We hear all about the exploits of crime bosses and bounty hunters, but what part do small-time crooks and hustlers play in the Star Wars galaxy?"
Constance Lewis, U.S.A.

Given the extent of their power and reach, we have learned a great deal about criminal organizations, such as Crimson Dawn, Black Sun, the Pyke Syndicate, and the Hutts, as well as numerous bounty hunters, including Jango and Boba Fett, Aurra Sing, Fennec Shand, and the Mandalorian, Din Djarin. While the major players caught the attention of the Empire, New Republic, and First Order, there were plenty of

small-time hustlers who operated under the radar, having turned to crime as their only option to survive the harsh realities of the galaxy.

One scumrat from Corellia, Han Solo, called upon the skills he learned during his less-than-legal youth when the opportunity to join Tobias Beckett's crew arose. Solo wished to earn enough money to return home to free his beloved Qi'ra, but events quickly spiraled out of control, leading to the deaths of Beckett and Dryden Vos, Qi'ra's ascension to prominence in Crimson Dawn, and Solo and his co-pilot Chewbacca heading off to begin their smuggling careers for a big-shot gangster on Tatooine.

Low-Level Lawbreakers

Elan Sleazebaggano

Operating out of the Outlander Club in Coruscant's seedy underbelly, Elan Sleazebaggano made a living selling highly addictive death sticks to the venue's patrons. Unfortunately for Sleazebaggano, he attempted to hustle Obi-Wan Kenobi, who "advised" him to go home and rethink his life.



Ponda Baba

Spice smuggler Ponda Baba worked for Jabba the Hutt and was a regular at the Mos Eisley Cantina. No stranger to trouble, the Aqualish picked a fight with a young farm boy at the bar, unaware that his mark's companion was Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi. That mistake cost Baba his arm.



Doctor Cornelius Evazan

A former surgeon known for conducting illegal medical experiments, Evazan partnered with Ponda Baba after the Aqualish saved him from a bounty hunter. Joining Baba in bullying Luke Skywalker in the Mos Eisley Cantina, Evazan soon felt the blue blade of Obi-Wan Kenobi's lightsaber.





As for Chewbacca, his motivation for the outlaw lifestyle was rooted in the Empire's occupation of his home planet, the capture of his family, and the life debt he owed to Solo for freeing him from captivity on Mimban. Lando Calrissian, a gambler and another Solo associate, attempted to run a legitimate mining business on Bespin, yet even this was done with the hopes of avoiding any unwanted interest from the Empire or the Mining Guild.

Money For Nothing

Tobias Beckett, Val, and Rio Durant became thieves for the money, seeking any opportunity ▶



The Mythrol

While working for Greef Karga, the Mythrol engaged in some creative accounting that resulted in him acquiring a portion of Karga's wealth. A bounty was placed on the Mythrol, and Din Djarin brought the fugitive in alive. The Magistrate sentenced the Mythrol to an office job as a way to repay his debts.



Captain Lang

A hired gun, Captain Lang was employed by Magistrate Morgan Elsbeth and paid to command the guards who patrolled the walled city of Calodan on Corvus. Lang met his end when he crossed paths with Din Djarin, who collaborated with Ahsoka Tano to liberate the local population from Elsbeth's yoke.





► for that one big payday that would permit them to retire. Profit proved to be a common theme for most independent gangs and petty criminals. From Elan Sleazebaggano's death stick hustle to Captain Lang's mercenary ways, these individuals kept their eyes peeled for easy chances to score credits while simultaneously ducking any entanglements with law enforcement.

The Spice Runners of Kijimi, a cadre that at one time included Poe Dameron, worked to survive on a poor, desolate planet which the First Order had occupied and abused. Though living in violent times, Zorii Bliss and Babu Frik nevertheless demonstrated compassion and loyalty when Dameron returned and asked for their help.

Such scofflaws and outcasts made careers out of gambling, hustling, or small-time thievery, and as a consequence many made little or no impact on the galaxy. A long life and happy retirement didn't always figure in their stories either. Val

and Durant died during a job on Vandor, while Beckett perished the unceremonial death of a gunslinger, on the wrong end of a shootout. Others, such as Ponda Boba and Doctor Evazan, had brushes with influential figures like Luke Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi, yet continued on the criminal paths they had chosen.

Of course, there were exceptions who ended up changing the course of history. Solo and Chewbacca's job hauling Skywalker and Kenobi to Alderaan led them to join the Rebellion, help defeat the Empire, and play important roles in the Resistance's victory over the First Order. Their involvement factored into Calrissian's decision to fight, as well. Poe Dameron followed a similar path, becoming a Resistance hero and ace pilot. As the Emperor learned at Exegol when an armada of civilian ships arrived to oppose his Final Order, there were times when even the pettiest of criminals could make a significant impact. 🗡️

DJ's Diagnosis

Found by Rose and Finn in a Canto Bight jail cell, DJ offered a sobering take on the conflicts that had torn through the galaxy. Pointing out that war profiteers had earned riches from selling to both the Resistance and the First Order, DJ believed that the best course of action was not to commit to joining either side.

The wily criminal appeared to break his own rule when he helped his newfound "friends" board the *Supremacy*, but he was quick to sell them out once Captain Phasma apprehended them. In a galaxy where Force users needed to choose whether to use their talents for good or evil, DJ represented the morally questionable realm in which most citizens, both civilians and criminals, operated.



SOLO EXPLOITS

13 BSW4:

When a deal on Corellia went bad, Han Solo stole a vial of coaxium and attempted to flee from Lady Proxima's gang, evading capture by enlisting in the Imperial Navy.

10 BSW4:

Solo joined Tobias Beckett's gang on Mimban as they stole an AT-hauler to use in a conveyex heist on Vandor. The plan went south when Enfys Nest intervened.

10 BSW4:

Having successfully stolen unrefined coaxium from the mines of Kessel on behalf of Dryden Vos, Han Solo and Chewbacca turned their haul over to Enfys Nest, putting them at odds with both Vos and Beckett.

0 BSW4:

Hired to transport Luke Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi, Han Solo was caught up in a shootout with Rodian bounty hunter Greedo, who wanted to collect Solo's debt for Jabba the Hutt.

0-4 ASW4:

Still on the run from Jabba, Solo became an important figure in the Rebel Alliance before being captured by Boba Fett and delivered to Jabba. Once freed, Solo helped the Rebellion defeat the Emperor's forces on the forest moon of Endor.

34 ASW4:

While smuggling rathtars, Solo and Chewbacca ran afoul of the Guavian Death Gang and Kanjiklub, resulting in a reunion with General Leia Organa and the Resistance.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

Send your in-galaxy queries to starwarsinsider@titanemail.com with the subject header, "A Certain Point of View."

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STAR WARS INSIDER WORLDWIDE

CELEBRATING THE SAGA



LOOKING FOR LEIA

From space-bun struggles to posing for pics

Italian cosplayer Giulia Andriulo's introduction to *Star Wars* was somewhat unorthodox. "It was 2009, and I was listening to Blink-182's song 'A New Hope,'" she recounts. "That day, I decided to watch *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977). That night, I completely fell in love with the saga. I started watching all the movies, and I became really passionate about them. I have to thank Blink-182 for this!"

Andriulo started cosplaying when she decided to join the Rebel Legion. "The first character that

I wanted to portray was Princess Leia, obviously!" she said. "She has been so inspiring for me, but the thing I wanted the most was to give children a reason to smile. I will never forget my very first troop with the Rebel Legion. A girl literally ran from across the room to hug me and say 'Hi!' That was so nice."

Whether she's embodying the famed rebel princess or an Imperial transport security officer, such interactions have made cosplaying very rewarding. "My favorite part

about cosplaying is when someone looks at you like you're the real character," Andriulo explains. "It's beautiful when they call you by the character's name, they hug you, they ask you to take pictures. It makes all the effort worthwhile!"

Though Andriulo doesn't sew her own costumes, choosing instead to work with a tailor, the complex hairstyling is all up to her. "I had to fight to get the space-buns hairstyle," she said. "I spent over five months trying to make them close to the originals."

INSIDER NEEDS YOU!

We want to hear from you! Tell us about your *Star Wars* experience. What made you want to become a fan? What have you done in the name of *Star Wars*? Tell us your *Star Wars* story by sending your photos, art, and letters here:

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Photo: Francesco Guglielmino

ARTISTS' ALLEY

Talented *Star Wars* fans share their amazing drawings inspired by the galaxy far, far away....

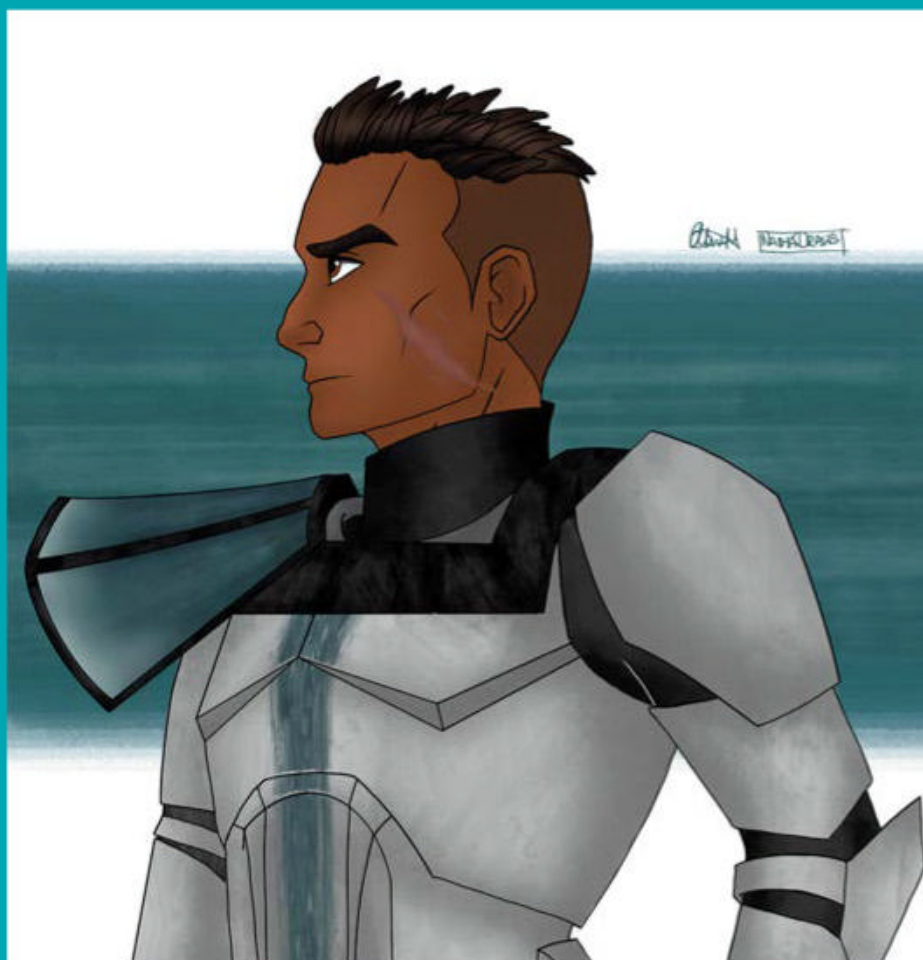


01 "AMIDALA" AND "LUKE SKYWALKER" BY ANTHONY CAPPUZZO

Fan artist Anthony Cappuzzo, who creates under the pseudonym The Art of Tsuyoshi's Drawing, has depicted Queen Amidala and her son, Luke Skywalker, in stunning detail. The expressions and shadows surrounding Luke's confrontation with the Emperor were particularly inspiring for Anthony, who wanted to highlight those elements against a background featuring the Second Death Star.

02 "CAPTAIN HOWZER" BY NAIMA HUMPERT

Like many fans of *The Bad Batch* (2021-present), Naima Humpert was captivated by Captain Howzer's bold actions on Ryloth. Despite the presence of his inhibitor chip, Howzer recognized that the Galactic Empire's morals were not the same as those held by the fallen Republic, a realization that led to the Bad Batch's escape. "To digitally draw the new clone captain, using references for his clone armor as well as his appearance from the episode itself was the key," details Naima.



BOUNTY HUNTERS

Scouring the galaxy for the stars of *Star Wars*...

CRAFTSMANSHIP
KOTOBUKIYA

Meet the stars, show the evidence, win the bounty! Bounty Hunters is sponsored by Kotobukiya. Each issue's winner will receive a fantastic Kotobukiya *Star Wars* statue kit! To see more, visit www.facebook.com/kotobukiya



ASHLEY ECKSTEIN AND MATT LANTER: A Force for Fun

As fan Austin Bitikofer can attest, encountering Ahsoka Tano and Anakin Skywalker from *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008-2014, 2020) on the same day makes for a one-of-a-kind encounter.

"Meeting Ashley Eckstein and Matt Lanter was an unbelievable experience unlike any other," declares Austin. "I literally grew up hearing their voices as Ahsoka and Anakin, listening to them talk while I was meeting them felt like I was right there with the characters I've loved for years."

The voice actors behind Ahsoka and Anakin in *The Clone Wars* ensured that it would be a day long remembered for Austin, who enjoyed joking with Ashley and Matt as they all prepared for their photograph. "They were both extremely kind and funny, and made my meeting with them pretty unique," smiles Austin.



Austin enjoys a fun pose with Ashley Eckstein and Matt Lanter, known for voicing Ahsoka Tano and Anakin Skywalker in *The Clone Wars*.

WORLDWIDE



FORGING A FOUNDLING

Shaping a Force-sensitive character's path

For Frederic Pontico, the magic of *Star Wars* never fades away. "Ever since I watched the first movie when I was a child, I have been fascinated by the *Star Wars* galaxy," says the fan. "Each time a new *Star Wars* movie comes out, I feel as excited as I did back then." That level of enthusiasm has now extended to *The Mandalorian* (2019-present).

Pontico knew he wanted to express his dedication to *Star Wars* through creative means, but exactly how remained a mystery. "Being a sculptor, the idea of making *Star Wars* artwork had been stuck in my head for a long time," says Frederic. "I couldn't seem to make up my mind about which subject to create. One day, a cartoonist friend of mine made a drawing of Grogu, and I realized that I needed to make my version of the character."

The sculptor set out to make his own metallic asset, envisioning Grogu seated in his own hovering pram-like cart. "It took me a little less than two months to make the little

green creature. A small part of the artwork is made with recovered materials and the rest in sheet brass," says Pontico. "Since this metal turns green when it oxidizes, it was the perfect material for my project."

The newly crafted foundling has endeared itself to Frederic just as Grogu has warmed the heart of the Mandalorian. "I am more than satisfied with the result," smiles Pontico. "My little Grogu quietly guards the entrance to the house and has found its place amongst my other sculptures."





TWO SIDES TO THE FORCE

Bringing balance to the galaxy as both a Jedi and a Sith

A fan of *Star Wars* since he was in middle school, Mark Greene loves the saga's characters, and he has always felt a particularly strong connection to Jedi Master Mace Windu. "Windu is such an important character to me," Greene explains "A character who was not just a hero, but the first time I saw a hero that looked like me. As a 6'3", bald, male, African-American, cosplaying Mace Windu was the natural choice for me."

Mark also enjoyed the fact that Windu's purple lightsaber made him

stand out from the other Jedi. "Mace is played by my favorite actor, the one and only Samuel L. Jackson. He and I grew up in the same town, Chattanooga, Tennessee," relays the cosplayer, "I have been a fan of his since I was a child. To get to cosplay as him now as an adult is such an honor and a privilege."

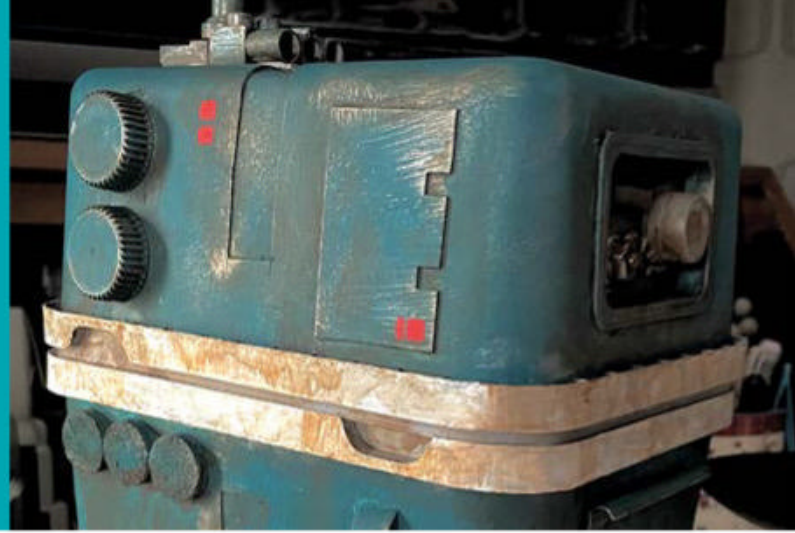
Of course, the Jedi are not the only Force-users in the galaxy. Greene was also drawn to cosplay a notable Sith. "I remember the first time I saw a picture of Darth Nihilus. He was first introduced as

a villain in [the videogame] *Knights of the Old Republic II*," says Mark. "This looming, mysterious and terrifying figure. I was instantly intrigued by him."

Whether Jedi or Sith, Greene has enjoyed bringing *Star Wars* characters to life and imagining interesting poses with photographer David Leo. While he is fond of all of his cosplays, Mark attributes his hobby to Mace Windu. "This experience in my life is what began my journey into cosplay and for that I will forever be grateful."

TK-101

HINTS, TIPS, AND IDEAS FOR CRAFTING
YOUR OWN *STAR WARS* GALAXY



POWER UP INSPIRATION

In this edition of TK-101, we speak to regular StarWars.com contributor and galactic crafter Kelly Knox to discover what inspires her *Star Wars* creativity.

WORDS: CHRISTOPHER COOPER

When it comes to the things we make and create, everyone has their own interests and approach. And we're all inspired by different things. TK-101 has a penchant for recreating our favorite *Star Wars* objects (whether accurately or approximately), while others make their own fashions based on the saga, or paint artwork, or... well, there's a billion ways to express

our fandom through crafting. We reached out to Kelly Knox, who's creative makes enliven the pages of StarWars.com, to offer her own perspective on what might inspire others to take a stab at crafting for themselves.

"My crafting career started in the bleary-eyed pre-dawn hours with a toddler," Knox tells TK-101. "When my daughter was little, she woke up ready to play around 5:00

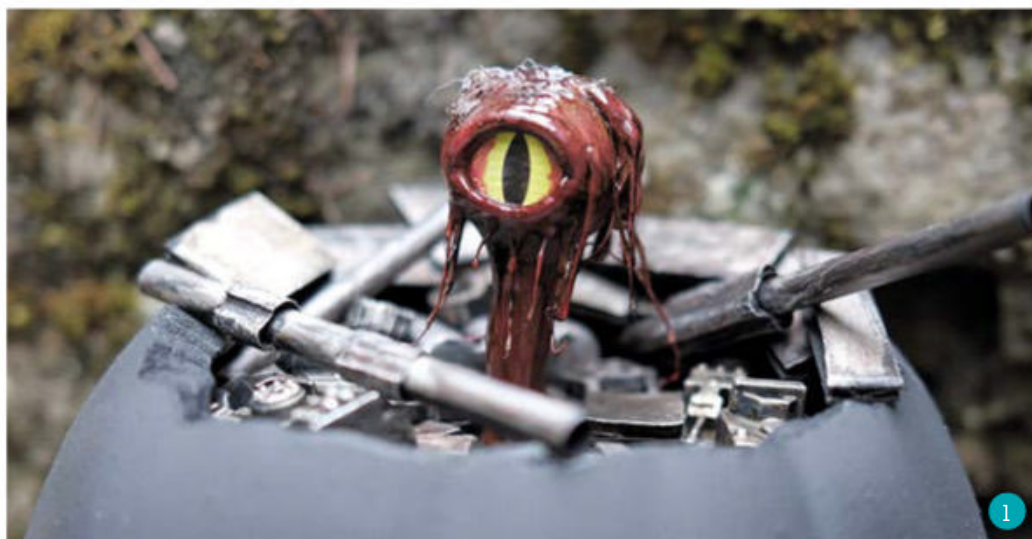
AM, and I turned to crafting for something to do during those mornings. After making about 100 handprint animals, I remember thinking in my sleepy haze that one sort of looked like Chewbacca, so that's what we made. After that, I put a *Star Wars* twist on some other crafts and artwork we created together. She learned about *Star Wars* characters, and I was able to stay awake!"

GOING, GOING... GONK!

Re-use and recycle in honor of Earth Day!

Kelly Knox challenged TK-101 to use materials currently in our recycling bin to create a *Star Wars* project from scratch. We dug out a couple of ice cream tubs, assorted bottle tops, plastic packaging from inkjet toner cartridges, and some other bits and bobs to construct our very own GNK power droid. What will you come up with?





1



5



4

WHAT KNOX KNOCKED UP

Kelly Knox's Favorite
StarWars.com makes

1 DIANOGA-IT YOURSELF

October 4, 2021

2 BOBA FETT TISSUE BOX

January 12, 2021

3 TRENCH RUN BOOK NOOK

August 3, 2020

4 JEDI TEMPLE CHALLENGE

July 21, 2020

5 RATHTAR-O'-LANTERN

October 17, 2017

You can find full instructions
for these makes and many
more on the **News+Blog** tab
at **StarWars.com**.



2



3

Making Waves

Knox eventually started sharing her ideas online on blogs and social media, and they caught the eye of StarWars.com in 2016. Since then, she has been busy generating a succession of easy-to-make crafting projects for the official website using found materials, complete with step-by-step instructions. TK-101 asked Knox how important it is to be able to share her knowledge in an accessible way?

"I think it's much more likely to inspire someone to put together a craft if they have most of the materials already," she answers.

"Someone might be intimidated by needing a trip to the craft store, but if they can find almost everything by rummaging around the house, they might give the project a go.

"I'm also a huge fan of re-using cardboard and plastic for a craft," she adds. "Not only does it pay homage to the set and prop makers from *Star Wars* (the masters of the greeblie!), but it's a great way to give a new life to recyclable materials. Food packaging and toy packaging can make some incredible things that look completely at home in the *Star Wars* galaxy." So, with a ready supply of materials to hand, where

does Knox draw her inspiration from for each new creation?

"Just about anywhere!" she reveals. "Sometimes I wander the aisles of the craft store, see a material, and the idea comes from there. One idea came from spotting a rathtar toy at the grocery store! Obviously, an idea can also spring from a new movie release or a currently popular character. Most recently I'm inspired by other crafters who share their work online, specifically their methods and materials. Finding new inspiration is almost always a struggle, but there's always a lightbulb moment too." 🌟

The *Star Wars* Archive

The behind-the-scenes
story of a galaxy far,
far away....

DROIDS WELCOME

Audiences already engrossed in the unfolding story of *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977) were in for a shock when Obi-Wan Kenobi led Luke Skywalker into the wretched hive of scum and villainy that was the Mos Eisley Cantina.

The scene, with its colorful cavalcade of exotic creatures, smoky atmosphere, and catchy music, was truly from another galaxy, and it quickly became an iconic moment in cinematic history.

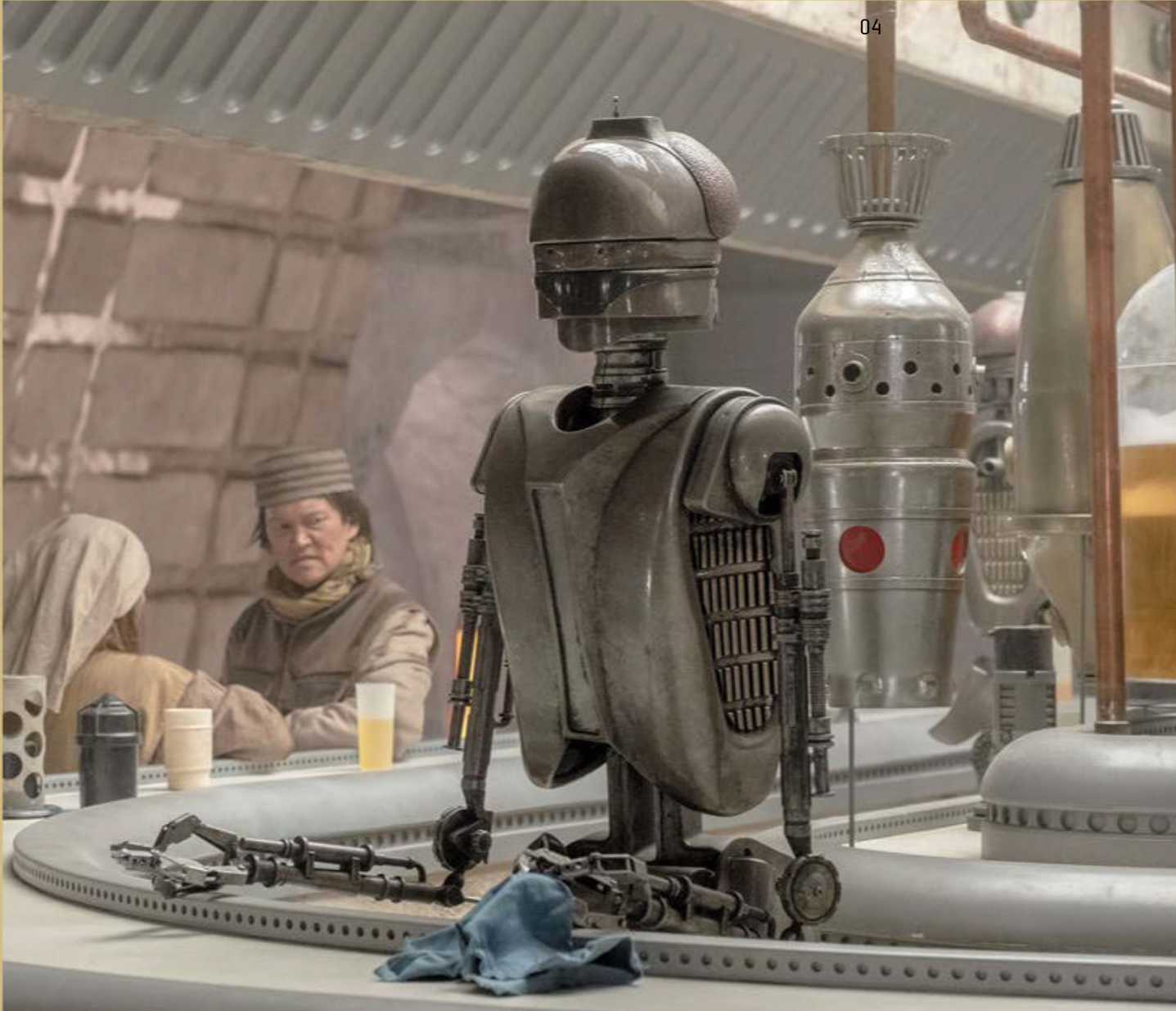
Cantina-like scenes have since been a recurring hallmark of the *Star Wars* movies and television series, and the Mos Eisley Cantina itself made appearances in both seasons of *The Mandalorian* (2019-present). Having a little fun with the cantina's original no droids door policy, creator Jon Favreau elected to shake the venue up with droid staff (in the form of EV-9D9 behind the bar), and patrons including R5-D4. ▶





01 Joey Genitempo (left) and Josh Roth (right) prepare the R5-D4 prop for its cameo appearance in *The Mandalorian* (2019-present), Chapter 5, "The Gunslinger." The astromech was first seen suffering from a bad motivator in *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977).

02



04



02 Details from the original cantina were carefully recreated for *The Mandalorian*, down to the Rolls Royce jet engine parts that also served as IG-88's head in *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980).

03 Mark Hamill (pictured as Luke Skywalker in this on-set photograph from *A New Hope*) supplied the voice for the cantina's new droid barkeeper, EV-9D9.

04 This behind-the-scenes still from the filming of *A New Hope* shows the scale of the original set. *The Mandalorian* version was a combination of solid scenery and the LED screen backgrounds of ILM StageCraft.

05 (Left to right) Director and actor Taika Waititi, series creator and executive producer Jon Favreau, and executive producer and director Dave Filoni on the cantina set.



04



03



Inside and Out

The exterior shots of the cantina for *A New Hope* were filmed on Djerba, an island off the coast of Tunisia.

The unique architecture of the island already had an authentically “off-world” look, which the crew transformed into the streets of Mos Eisley using props and other items of set dressing (pictured above).

These shots were augmented for 1997’s Special Edition of *A New Hope*, with additional patrons entering the cantina and a digitally enhanced dewback tethered outside. A section of the exterior was built for *The Mandalorian*, in a shot that echoed the framing of the original movie. 🕒



05





STAR WARS

GALACTIC TALES

The Wesell Run

By S.T. Bende

Z

am Wesell lowered her macrobinoculars and dropped to her knees. The Clawdite had spent the better part of the day scouting the residence of her current target—a wealthy collector who owed a vast debt to the

Intergalactic Banking Clan. Zam had known Sinvatt Bovic would go to great lengths to protect his relics—and himself. The obscured cams, regiment of security droids, and human guards patrolling his stone-walled compound would be easy to overcome. But Zam hadn't expected to find three protectors wearing purple capes with swirled, silver and black clasps. One Mabari she could handle—Zam rarely misfired, and while the ancient order of warrior-knights were nearly impervious to blaster bolts, a well-aimed shot could distract one enough to get Zam within striking range. But three working in tandem would easily overtake her. Or worse...

Zam could deploy toxic gas, or set off a sizeable explosive. But both of those options carried the risk of killing Bovic. The only way to capture her target alive was to call in a favor from a formidable ally. And Zam's years with the Mabari had taught her that the only warriors Bovic's protectors truly feared wore beskar.

Zam's hands balled into fists as she crept silently back to her speeder and contacted the only bounty hunter she'd almost ever trusted.

"I need an assist," she admitted.

An emotionless voice crackled across the com. "Don't you always?"

"Do you want the credits or not?" Zam snapped. "Half the fee is yours if you help me bring in this target. And it's a big one."

After a tortuous pause, a sigh filled the cockpit. "Send me the coordinates. I'm on my way."

Zam's breath quickened as the familiar silhouette of Jango Fett's *Firespray*-class patrol craft touched down in the moonlit valley on Fytoun. She quickly briefed him on their assignment, checking her rifle while he checked his blasters.

"I thought you used to be Mabari," Jango crossed his arms. "What's the matter? Can't handle one of your own?"

"There are three of them," Zam said through gritted teeth. "And you're here now, so let's just get this over with and we can go our separate ways. Again."

"Whatever you say," Jango marched silently through the foliage. Zam kept a wary eye on him as they made their way to the compound and sniped the exterior cams. They decommissioned the security droids and stunned the armed humans, then inched toward the collector's inner chambers. Jango lowered his rangefinder to peer through the wall. He raised two fingers, confirming the presence of the dual Mabari stationed outside Bovic's study. The third guard must have gone out on patrol—a hurdle Zam would cross once it leaped upon her, blade drawn.

On Jango's signal, Zam detonated the wall. She ignored the sting of a shard of wooden shrapnel that grazed her cheek and charged towards the

freshly exposed hole. Jango fired two blaster bolts over her shoulder. His shots hit the Mabari, but the guards remained upright on either side of the inner chambers' imposing, crimson doors.

"Blaster bolts don't work on them!" Zam shouted, ripping her vibroblade from her belt as she raced through the gap.

"Where was that information earlier, Wesell?" Jango charged to his left. He leapt in the air and brought his elbow down on the skull of the purple-caped warrior. The Mabari barely flinched.

"Do I have to spell everything out for you?" Zam kicked a leg out in front of her, dropping low to the ground and sliding across the stones. Her heel connected with the boot of the stockier guard, and she jammed her fist into the Mabari's knee. She rolled to her left, narrowly avoiding Jango as he dodged a blow.

"I THOUGHT YOU USED TO BE MABARI." JANGO CROSSED HIS ARMS. "WHAT'S THE MATTER? CAN'T HANDLE ONE OF YOUR OWN?"
"THERE ARE THREE OF THEM." ZAM SAID THROUGH GRITTED TEETH.
"AND YOU'RE HERE NOW, SO LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH."

"You're going to get me killed," Jango grunted as his fist connected with the taller guard's chin. The Mabari spat angrily, but Zam caught the flicker of fear that passed through his eyes as he swept his gaze along Jango's Mandalorian armor.

"If that's the case, apparently I've underestimated the great Jango Fett," Zam leapt to her feet. She jabbed her vibroblade at her opponent's chest, but the guard spun and raised his own weapon—a long, curved sword that made Zam's dagger look like a Toydarian trinket. He swung it down and Zam jumped back, narrowly avoiding death by decapitation.

"That's enough," Jango muttered. "Do that thing we did on Snugano."

"I nearly died that day."

Zam dodged another swing.

"Just do it. Now."

Jango raised his left arm and tapped a finger to his wrist. A projectile dart launched from his gauntlet. It whistled through the air before plunging into the wrinkled, green forehead of its victim. The guard stumbled backward, lowering his head and charging at his assailant. Jango spun swiftly. He drew a vibroblade and thrust it into the guard's thigh. The Mabari growled as he launched himself forward and slammed Jango onto the ground.

"Now, Wesell!" Jango groaned.

Zam ducked as her opponent swung his sword. A familiar ripple coursed through her as she willed her limbs to morph, and her skin to thicken. Coarse fibers burst from her flesh as she shifted into a horrifying, fur-covered beast.

Hairy fingers tightened in a fist, which

she smashed into the startled face of her attacker. The Mabari, confused by Zam's sudden transformation, countered with a kick aimed at Zam's shin that went wide and she took full advantage of the opening.

"Whrrraaagh!" Zam let out a feral roar, and knocked the protector into a wall. As the Mabari staggered to his feet, Zam launched a front kick that drove him to his knees. She didn't let up until her opponent lay still on the ground.

Beside her, Jango fired a series of darts at his now-limping assailant. As the Mabari clawed at the protrusions, Jango wedged a detonator beneath the clasp of the warrior's cape.

"Clear out!" he called as he flung himself across the room. Zam swiftly followed. A fierce blast rocked the

hallway and she rolled to her feet, hurriedly shifting to her human form. She surveyed the bodies as Jango tilted his rangefinder toward the crimson doors, but he saw only static. "There's a scrambler blocking my scan. I guess that confirms our target is through here."

Zam wiped her face on her sleeve. "I certainly hope so."

"Are we waiting for an invitation?"

Zam glared, but swapped her blade for her blaster, squared her shoulders, and executed a swift front kick. When the doors burst open, she and Jango charged into Bovic's study. They stood back-to-back; their weapons raised as they quickly catalogued their surroundings. The circular room was lined with glass cases and multi-tiered shelves. Large, curled horns and sharply pointed fangs rested beside massive crystals and bejeweled headpieces. Tables draped with richly woven cloth displayed skulls of varying sizes, while the wall behind the smaller of the study's two desks housed the heads of a wampa, a nexu, and other creatures Zam couldn't identify.

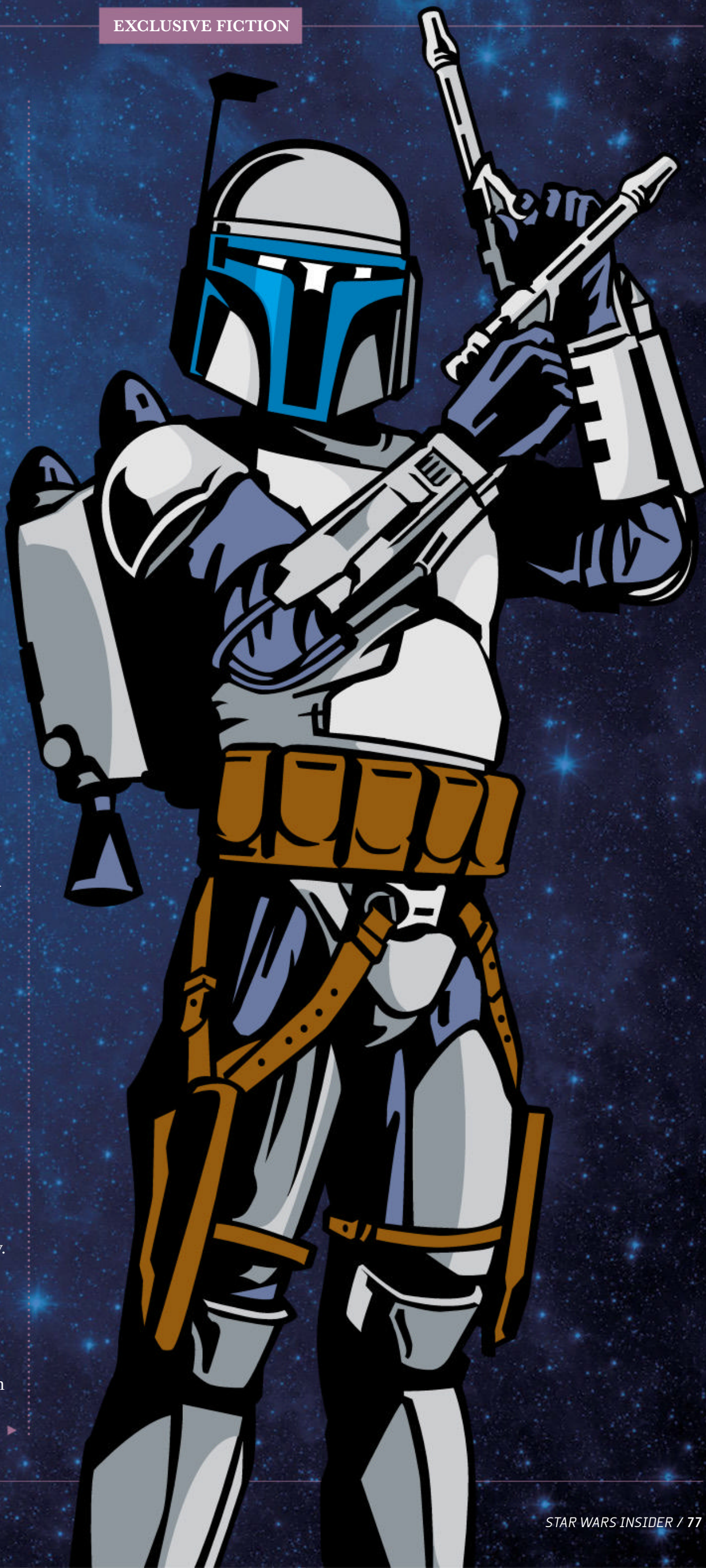
"My bet is Bovic's up there." She pointed to the balcony, which housed an impressive display of ancient Nihil armor. The collector could have concealed himself behind one of the suits, or the arrangement of masks, or—

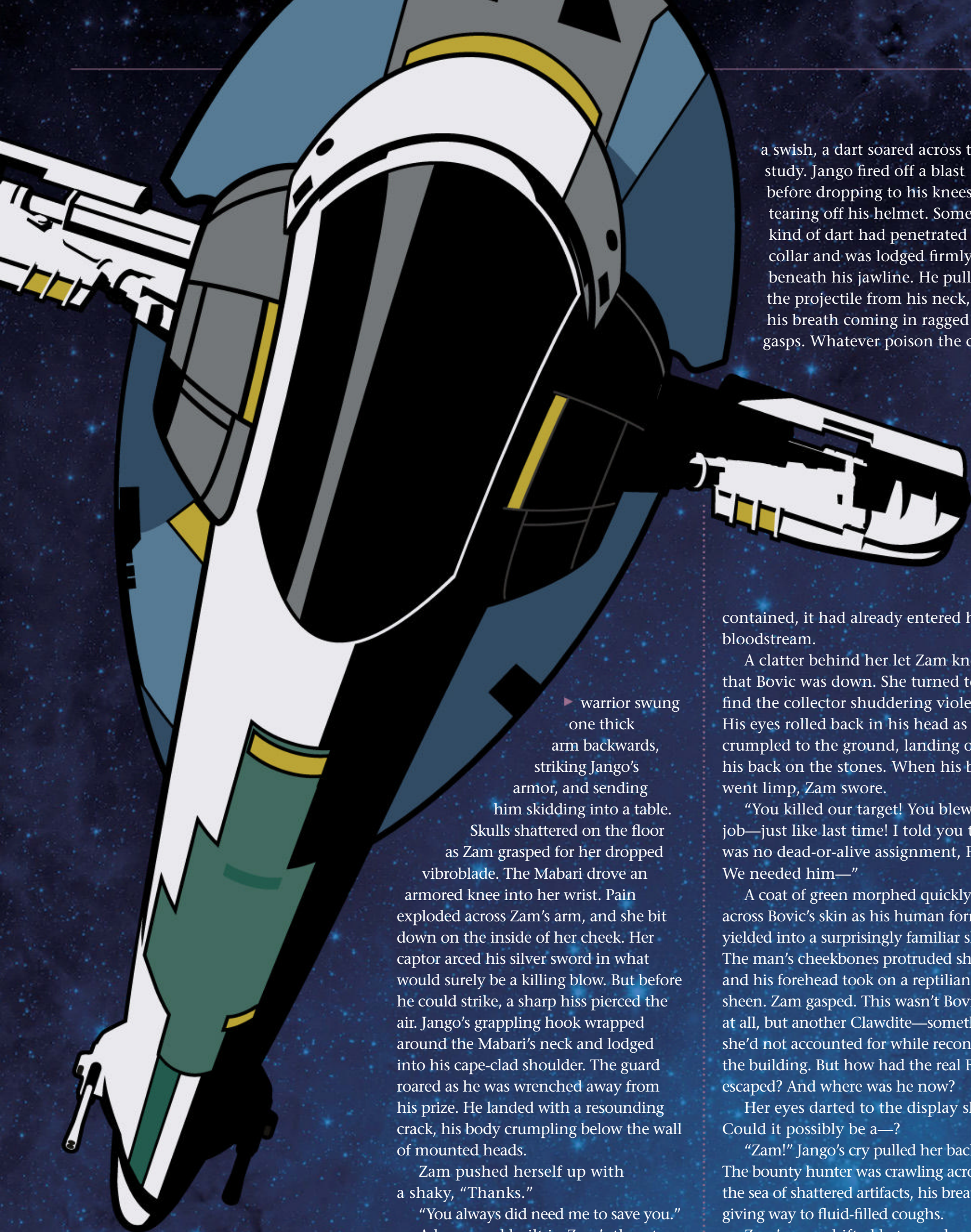
"Found him," Jango hissed.

The bounty hunter fired a blaster bolt which rocked the room. It bounced off the larger desk and lit up the display shelves behind it. The structure wavered—almost as if it had shifted on its foundation. A shimmering stone tumbled downward, landing at the feet of a cowering Sinvatt Bovic. The collector's navy robes fluttered as he raised trembling hands in surrender.

"Stop," he warbled. His eyes darted upward. "Please, I... you see..."

As Zam moved toward him, the third Mabari dropped lithely from the balcony. He wrapped his legs around Zam's neck, stealing her breath as he drove her to the ground. Zam tried to shoot but the warrior wrenched her blaster from her hands. As her consciousness slipped, Zam glimpsed a blur of beskar flashing in from the side. Jango slammed both his fists into the Mabari's temples, but the





a swish, a dart soared across the study. Jango fired off a blast before dropping to his knees and tearing off his helmet. Some kind of dart had penetrated his collar and was lodged firmly just beneath his jawline. He pulled the projectile from his neck, his breath coming in ragged gasps. Whatever poison the dart

► warrior swung one thick arm backwards, striking Jango's armor, and sending him skidding into a table.

Skulls shattered on the floor as Zam grasped for her dropped vibroblade. The Mabari drove an armored knee into her wrist. Pain exploded across Zam's arm, and she bit down on the inside of her cheek. Her captor arced his silver sword in what would surely be a killing blow. But before he could strike, a sharp hiss pierced the air. Jango's grappling hook wrapped around the Mabari's neck and lodged into his cape-clad shoulder. The guard roared as he was wrenched away from his prize. He landed with a resounding crack, his body crumpling below the wall of mounted heads.

Zam pushed herself up with a shaky, "Thanks."

"You always did need me to save you."

A low growl built in Zam's throat while she retrieved her blaster.

"I'll have you know, I—"

Crash!

Zam turned her head just as Bovic shoved one robed arm into the nearest display. He withdrew an elongated blowgun and raised it to his lips. With

contained, it had already entered his bloodstream.

A clatter behind her let Zam know that Bovic was down. She turned to find the collector shuddering violently. His eyes rolled back in his head as he crumpled to the ground, landing on his back on the stones. When his body went limp, Zam swore.

"You killed our target! You blew this job—just like last time! I told you this was no dead-or-alive assignment, Fett. We needed him—"

A coat of green morphed quickly across Bovic's skin as his human form yielded into a surprisingly familiar shape. The man's cheekbones protruded sharply and his forehead took on a reptilian sheen. Zam gasped. This wasn't Bovic at all, but another Clawdite—something she'd not accounted for while reconning the building. But how had the real Bovic escaped? And where was he now?

Her eyes darted to the display shelf. Could it possibly be a—?

"Zam!" Jango's cry pulled her back. The bounty hunter was crawling across the sea of shattered artifacts, his breathing giving way to fluid-filled coughs.

Zam's gaze shifted between her partner and the shelf. Jango had been poisoned, but their target was getting away, and every second that passed diminished her odds of completing this job. As Jango convulsed into a desperate coughing fit, Zam made up her mind. She turned on her heel and

raced across the study. She leapt over the stunned Clawdite, swiftly sized up the display, and tore the priceless objects from its shelves. Surely, an activator was built in somewhere! But the items crashed uselessly to the ground—none triggered whatever catch might open a secret passageway.

“Hey!” Jango choked.

Zam quickly scanned the room. If she couldn’t open the wall, she’d blow it off its foundation. But Bovic’s collection was sorely lacking in detonators, and she’d already used up her own supply. Maybe if the study housed a vibro-ax, or if one of the suits of Nihil armor contained something explosive. There had to be something in here she could use...

“Za-am!” Jango rasped her name. The bounty hunter reluctantly shifted her focus towards her ailing partner. Then her gaze landed on the projectile

know that rancid stench anywhere. We have to locate an antivenin.”

Jango pointed to the shattered case. “Try the cabinet that held—cough—the blowgun—cough—”

“I see it.” Zam hurdled over the toppled form of a well-preserved eopie. A simple clay jar sat at the rear of the cabinet, unbroken. She pulled open its cap and peered at its shimmering, yellow contents before returning to Jango. “It looks like what I remember of antivenin, but if we’re wrong this isn’t going to end well.”

Jango snatched the jar from her hands. “That’s a risk I’m willing to take.”

With a wry nod, he downed the liquid in two loud gulps.

Zam shifted from one foot to the other. “You good?”

“Give it a minute.” He wheezed.

“How about now?”

Jango pushed himself to his feet.

a cramped hangar, where a red speeder sat beneath an oval window. Moonlight streamed through the transparisteel, illuminating the real Bovic as he struggled to open the sealed cockpit.

“Oh, no you don’t,” Zam hissed. She lined up her shot and sniped the ship’s airlock controls. Before Bovic could turn around, she flipped a switch and fired off a second shot—one that stunned her target into submission.

“You positive that’s not another changeling?” Jango called as he walked across the silent hangar.

Zam poked a gloved finger into Bovic’s cheek. The doughy, white flesh bore no hints of green. “I hope not.”

“Then let’s get him bound and delivered to the client. Believe it or not, I do have my own targets to acquire.”

“I can take him from here.” Zam pulled a set of binders from her belt and fastened them to Bovic’s wrists. She and Jango maneuvered the sizeable man out of the now-silent compound and loaded him into Zam’s speeder.

Once their prize was secure, Jango offered a curt salute. “You know where to send my credits.”

Zam tilted her head. “You may want to lower your percentage, given the fact that I saved your life.”

“Maybe I would, if I hadn’t done the same for you.”

The bounty hunters traded begrudging nods. Zam kept one hand on the hilt of her blaster as Jango walked swiftly toward his blue-and-silver Firespray. She had no doubt that their paths would cross again. They always did. Every so often it helped to have a partner... even one she might never fully trust.

THE END

ZAM STEPPED BACK AS THE ROCKET LAUNCHED. IT SLAMMED INTO THE WOOD, IGNITING A SPRAY OF SPLINTERED SHARDS AS THE WALL ERUPTED IN A BLAZE OF FIERY GLORY.

in Jango’s jetpack, and a wave of relief washed through her.

“Fire your rocket at the display shelf,” she demanded. “It disguises the entrance to a passage—one that just gave Bovic the perfect escape route.”

Jango clawed at his chest. “Help me first.”

“I don’t have time,” Zam snapped.

“Do it. Or I’ll fire this rocket at you.”

Zam narrowed her eyes. “You wouldn’t,” she growled.

“I have nothing to lose, and you know it.”

Zam quickly weighed her options. With a frustrated groan, she sprinted across the study. She knelt at Jango’s side, picked up the dart, and slid it beneath her nose. The sharp tang of venom sent a shudder along her spine.

“Bluebarb wasp,” she spat. “I’d

“Your bedside manner never was your strong suit.”

Zam crossed her arms. “I’ll take that as a yes. Now blast through that wall.”

Jango lowered his shoulders and angled his spine toward the shelves. Zam stepped back as the rocket launched. It slammed into the wood, igniting a spray of splintered shards as the wall erupted in a blaze of fiery glory. A surge of heat rumbled through the study, and Zam flung her arms up to shield her face against the burn. The moment the fire ebbed, Zam charged through the still-smoking passage.

“You planning to join me?” she shouted over her shoulder.

The pad of Jango’s footfalls echoed behind her as she raced toward the faint shaft of light streaming from the end of the tunnel. She emerged inside

NEXT ISSUE:
General Grievous is on the hunt in an all-new short story, exclusive to *Star Wars Insider*!

JEDI MASTER'S QUIZ

Pirate, smuggler, and... hero? Hondo Ohnaka lived a colorful life in the Outer Rim, from the height of the Clone Wars to the rise of the First Order. Test your knowledge of the entrepreneur's exploits in this issue's criminal quiz!

Compiled by
Jay Stobie

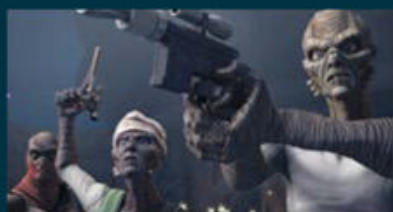
"YOU DON'T SURVIVE IN THE OUTER RIM BY BEING STUPID."

Dive into the underworld to answer these questions on Hondo Ohnaka's role in galactic history.

IN A JAM WITH THE JEDI

1: Who was sent to confirm that Hondo had kidnapped a Sith Lord?

- A/ Luminara Unduli and Barriss Offee
- B/ Mace Windu and Yoda
- C/ Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker
- D/ Plo Koon and Ahsoka Tano

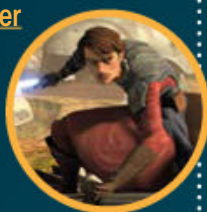


2: Which planet did Hondo's pirate gang operate on when he first met the Jedi?

- A/ Utapau
- B/ Florrum
- C/ Christophsis
- D/ Felucia

3: What did Hondo use in his duel with Anakin Skywalker on Felucia?

- A/ Beskar spear
- B/ Vibroblade
- C/ Electrostaff
- D/ Stolen lightsaber



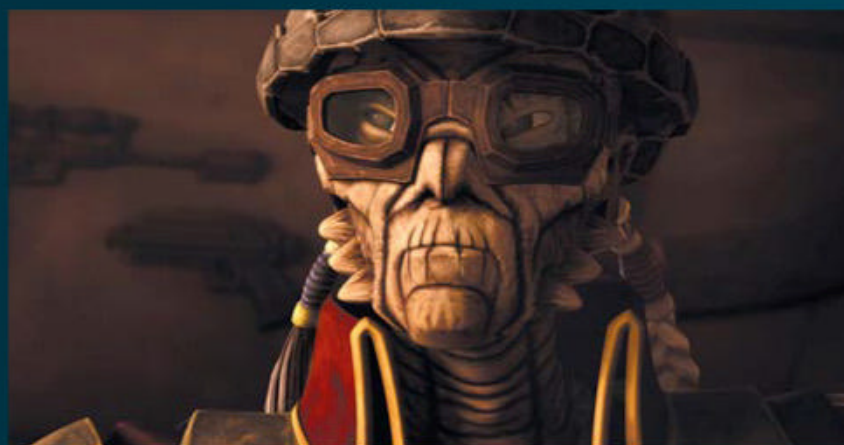
4: Which Force-sensitive person was killed when some of Hondo's gang rebelled against him?

- A/ Asajj Ventress
- B/ Even Piell
- C/ Savage Opress
- D/ Adi Gallia

5: What did Hondo hope to steal from the Jedi cruiser the *Crucible*?

- A/ Kyber crystals
- B/ Younglings
- C/ Architect droid Huyang
- D/ Hyperfuel

REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE

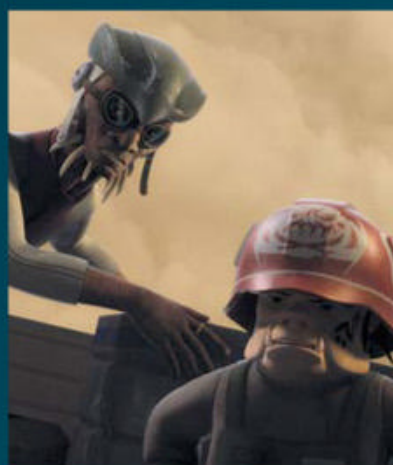


6: Where did Hondo claim he had found an abandoned Imperial cargo ship to pillage?

- A/ Bespin
- B/ Wynkahthu
- C/ Onderon
- D/ Hosnian Prime

7: Which species did Hondo's co-conspirator Melch belong to?

- A/ Gamorrean
- B/ Devaronian
- C/ Ugnaught
- D/ Weequay



8: The *Ghost* crew broke Hondo out of an Imperial prison located on what planet?

- A/ Naraka
- B/ Coruscant
- C/ Scarif
- D/ Vandor

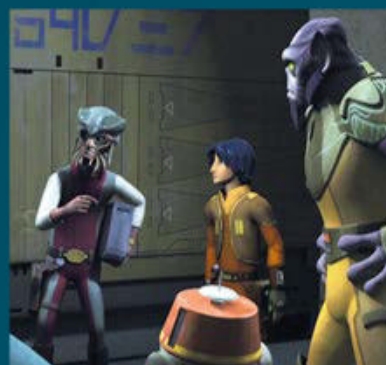
9: How did Hondo acquire his ship, the *Broken Horn*?

- A/ Won it in a sabacc game
- B/ Stunned and detained its owner
- C/ Salvaged it from a shipyard
- D/ Purchased it from the Empire



10: Who did Hondo help the *Ghost* crew rescue from the planet Nixus?

- A/ Smugglers from Ord Mantell
- B/ Farmers from Lothal
- C/ Bounty hunters from Tatooine
- D/ Refugees from Lasan



AT THE GALAXY'S EDGE

11: What company did Hondo establish on Batuu?

- A/ Ohnaka Mining Consortium
- B/ Ohnaka Transport Solutions
- C/ Ohnaka Trade Market
- D/ Ohnaka Cargo Security



12: Which Jedi did Hondo name his light freighter after?

- A/ Kenobi
- B/ Katooni
- C/ Skywalker
- D/ Tano

13: After which battle did Hondo make a deal with Chewbacca to use the *Millennium Falcon*?

- A/ Battle of Starkiller Base
- B/ Battle of D'Qar
- C/ Battle of Crait
- D/ Battle of Exegol

14: Where did Hondo use the *Millennium Falcon* to rob a First Order train?

- A/ Corellia
- B/ Kijimi
- C/ Mimban
- D/ Eadu

15: Who received intelligence from the White Worms regarding Hondo's presence on Batuu?

- A/ Bala-Tik
- B/ Bazine Netal
- C/ Fennec Shand
- D/ Tasu Leech

"SPEAK SOFTLY, AND DRIVE A BIG TANK."

Identify which friends (and foes) spoke these memorable lines to Hondo Ohnaka:

1. "I SHOULD ASSUME YOU ARE WALKING US INTO A TRAP."

2. "PROVIDE ME WITH THE PROPER MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS, I WILL ARRANGE FOR ANY RANSOM TO BE PAID."

3. "You can dispense with the pleasantries, pirate. This planet is now under separatist control."

4. "WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU, AND WE SEEK NO REVENGE."

5. "THREE OF YOUR LIEUTENANTS HAVE ALREADY SWORN ALLEGIANCE TO ME."

"ONCE I GET MY MONEY, WE CAN GO BACK TO BEING FRIENDS."

Identify these known associates of Hondo Ohnaka.



ANSWERS QUIZ: 1. C, 2. B, 3. C, 4. D, 5. A, 6. B, 7. C, 8. A, 9. B, 10. D, 11. B, 12. B, 13. C, 14. A, 15. B.
"SPEAK SOFTLY, AND DRIVE A BIG TANK": 1. Plo Koon, 2. Count Dooku, 3. General Grievous, 4. Obi-Wan Kenobi, 5. Maul.
"ONCE I GET MY MONEY, WE CAN GO BACK TO BEING FRIENDS": 1. Jango Fett, 2. Azmorigan, 3. Aurra Sing, 4. Cikatro Vizago.

HOW DID YOU DO?

Were you able to keep track of Hondo Ohnaka's scams and schemes?

0-9: At this rate, our venture will not be a profitable one.

10-19: Not bad. Some day you might make an excellent pirate.

20-24: Glorious, you're going to be rich...minus my fee, of course!

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STAR WARS

INSIDER

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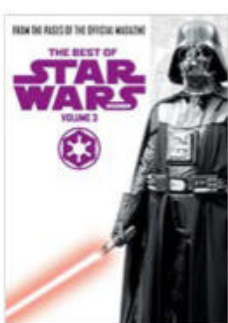
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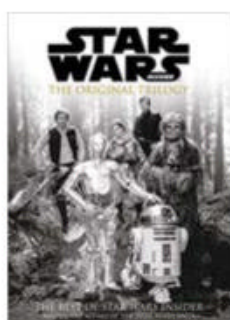
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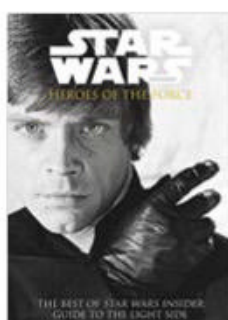
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